

Hafa Adai!

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# Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 101

**TUESDAY**, MAY 23, 2023

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



## Emergency response focused on Rota

The CNMI administration, federal partners, and the newly established Multi-agency Coordination team hold a weather briefing with guidance from the National Weather Service in Guam yesterday at the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office on Capital Hill.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

**T**he most recent forecast on Typhoon Mawar, as projected by the National Weather Service in Guam, has shown that the southern part of Rota and the northern part of Guam will be

bearing the brunt of the storm. With this development, the CNMI and its federal partners will be focusing most of emergency response efforts on Rota.

As of 5pm yesterday, a Typhoon Warning is in effect for Guam and Rota. Damaging winds of 39 mph

or more are expected within 24 hours, with the onset of typhoon force winds forecast for Wednesday morning.

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for Saipan and

See **ROTA** on Page 4

## PUBLIC ADVISORIES

### Shelters activated

Shelters have been activated and were opened at 4pm yesterday, May 22, 2023. Residents who need shelter assistance are asked to use the shelters closest to their homes. Residents are expected to bring their own bedding, food, and drinks in

the shelter. No pets are permitted in the shelter unless the pet is a certified service animal. An ID should be presented upon entry.

1. Marianas High School (Cafeteria)
2. Koblerville Elementary School (Cafeteria)

See **SHELTERS** on Page 4

## DUE TO TYPHOON MAWAR Road between Joeten Hafa Adai and IPI casino will be temporarily closed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Department of Public Works Secretary Ray N. Yumul will be issuing before noon today, Tuesday, a directive for the emergency closure of Hibiscus Lane—the road between Joeten Hafa Adai and Imperial Pacific International

(CNMI) LLC casino/resort building in Garapan—for safety reasons due to Typhoon Mawar.

Yumul told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday afternoon that the emergency closure is in line with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' declaration of Tropical Storm Condition 2 for Saipan. He said the closure will be

See **ROAD** on Page 4



Yumul

## OAG: Report incidents of price gouging

As Typhoon Mawar bears down on the CNMI, the Office of the Attorney General encourages consumers to report incidents of price gouging. Attorney General Edward Manibusan warns retailers that the Consumer Protection Act makes it unlawful for any business to engage in price gouging.

"The Office of the Attorney

General will prosecute, both criminally and civilly, any business that engages in price gouging," said Manibusan.

Price gouging occurs when a business increases prices based on the shortage of goods caused by a natural disaster or any other emergency.

To assist with the investigation of price gouging, affected

See **OAG** on Page 4

**'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN**

Days until  
'touchback rule'  
takes effect on  
Sept. 30, 2023:

**130**

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Saipan Community School celebrated 35 years of musical legacy during the school's spring concert.

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### BUSINESS

This year's DAISY Award honoree at GRMC is Chloe Mortes, a registered nurse in the ICU.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Adidas will begin selling its more than \$1 billion worth of Yeezy sneakers later this month.

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# Local

## BOG temporarily closes Guam, NMI branches due to Mawar

Bank of Guam announced yesterday the temporary closure of its branches in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands due to approaching Typhoon Mawar.

Effective Tuesday, May 23, 2023, the Bank of Guam headquarters, along with all Guam and CNMI branches, will be closed. The Familia Contact Center will also close at 12am today, May 23, until Condition

of Readiness 4 is declared in Guam and it's safe to reopen.

"The safety and wellbeing of our customers, employees, and the community are of utmost importance to us, and we are taking proactive measures to ensure everyone's safety. Our network of ATMs will remain operable during the closure and as always, customers can continue to count on our online, mobile, and voice banking services," said

Joaquin P. L.G. Cook, the bank's president and chief executive officer.

Bank of Guam will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates via its website and social media channels regarding the reopening of its branches. In the meantime, customers are advised to stay informed about Typhoon Mawar through official government channels, local news outlets, and weather advisories. **(BOG)**

## US House Appropriations Subcommittee OKs \$4.5M for five community projects

The U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee included on Wednesday in its fiscal year 2024 spending bill all five com-

munity projects for the CNMI worth \$4.5 million as requested by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

Sablan disclosed in his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend that three projects are for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and one each for the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Public Lands.

For CHCC, the projects are \$1 million for acquiring an

MRI machine, \$1 million for a medical supplies warehouse, and \$500,000 for Phase 3 of the solar photovoltaic project.

For DOC, \$1 million is for the installation of a solar photovoltaic system.

For DPL, \$1 million will help develop infrastructure for the As Gonno homestead project.

The bill now heads to the full Appropriations Committee. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

### NATIONAL SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT MOBILIZATION

MAY 22 - JUNE 4, 2023

Seat belts have been proven to be one of the best ways to save your life in a crash. Yet, many still don't buckle up. Worse still, not wearing a seat belt is a habit that will pass on to impressionable youth who, in turn, will think it is safe to not buckle up. The Click It or Ticket campaign focuses on safety education, strong laws, and law enforcement support to save lives.



## Crime/Crash Clock 2020 Values

### Crime

- 1** murder every **24.4** minutes
- 1** violent crime every **24.7** seconds
- 1** property crime every **4.9** seconds
- 1** burglary every **30.5** seconds



### Crash

- 1** traffic fatality every **14** minutes
- 1** traffic injury every **14** seconds
- 1** property damage crash every **9** seconds
- 10** law-enforcement reported crashes every minute

### Data Source:

**Crime** - Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2020 Crime Clock Statistics, Crime in the United States (10/16/2021)

**Crash** - NHTSA 2020 Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS)

15482d-033122-v1



For more information call CNMI Department of Public Safety

SAIPAN 664-9125/9084/85 | TINIAN 433-9222/2041 | ROTA 532-9433/9350

[www.dps.gov.mp](http://www.dps.gov.mp)



### GOOD SAMARITANS!

Jenn and Rudy Guerrero and their boys are opening their hearts and home to foster one of the many adoptable dogs from the Mayor's Shelter, in collaboration with Saipan Humane Society. Other photo shows another group of Good Samaritans who have also agreed to foster these puppies. In preparation ahead of Typhoon Mawar, SHS is asking families to foster these dogs at least until the storm passes. Foster families are provided with dog food, puppy pads, and a dog lead. Foster families can also adopt their foster if they choose. Fostering is an excellent way to determine if you are cut out to be a fur parent. Contact [saipanhumanesociety.org](http://saipanhumanesociety.org) for more information.



## Some Medicaid services to be suspended by June 1

The budgetary constraints currently facing the CNMI Medicaid Agency will soon result in some services being suspended or limited on effective June 1, 2023, including dental and vision services.

The Commonwealth Medicaid Agency sent out a notice yesterday regarding amendments to the CNMI Medicaid State Plan that took effect last

April 1, but will become effective starting this June.

According to the notice, under the amended plan, Medicaid will temporarily limit, reduce, or suspend some of its services. Fortunately, Medicaid will implement these amendments starting June 1, to ensure that medically necessary services are not disrupted.

"Under the waiver authority of Section 1902(j) of the Social Se-

curity Act, the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency will limit, reduce, or suspend services due to financial constraints and cost-cutting measures are critical. In an effort to sustain the program and ensure medically necessary services are not disrupted, temporary limitations, restrictions, or suspensions will be implemented and taken into effect on June 1, 2023, and end no later

than Sept. 30, 2023," said the notice.

The suspended services are:

- Dental services
- Outpatient physical therapy and related services
- Home health physical therapy, home health aide, or medical social worker services
- Prosthetic devices
- Vision services

The notice states that children

ages 0-20 years may be excluded from the limitations, reductions, or suspensions of services for the purposes of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment services through prior authorization.

Prior Authorization requests must accompany physician certification of medical necessity.

Limited services include:

- Home health services (skilled nursing services only)
- Durable medical equipment will be restricted to monthly rental only
- Accessories required for the use of a DME and medical supplies will be restricted to critical cases
- Prescribed drugs (prescribed drugs will be limited to generics only).
- Transportation (Air transportation will be reimbursed for medically necessary and emergency purposes and shall be en-

forced by the Health Network Program. Ground non-emergency transportation must accompany a Physician's Certification Statement of necessity.)

Restricted to: The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Tinian Health Center, Rota Health Center, or a Federally Qualified Health Center.

Other limited services are:

- Outpatient hospital services
- Laboratory and x-ray services
- Family planning and pregnancy-related services
- Physician, licensed practitioner, and any other medical care services
- Clinic services

Dialysis services will remain available at any of Medicaid's approved provider networks in the CNMI.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency. **(Kimberly B. Esmores)**

## Ada gives updates on classes, graduations, shelters before storm

All CNMI Public School System classes are canceled until Thursday, May 25, and until further notice due to the approaching Typhoon Mawar, which is expected to make landfall later today.

The class cancellations include Head Start/Early Head Start and Early Intervention programs.

Tropical Storm Condition II is currently hoisted over Saipan and Tinian. Typhoon Condition II is declared for Rota.

Graduation ceremonies are being amended once again, said Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada in a memorandum yesterday afternoon.

The new PSS graduation schedule are as follows:

■ Saturday, May 27, is Tinian Sr. High School graduation at 4pm.

■ Tuesday, May 30, at 9am is Francisco M. Sablan Middle

School promotion; 4pm is Marianas High School graduation.

■ Wednesday, May 31, at 9am is ChaCha Ocean View Middle School promotion; at 4pm is Kagman High School graduation.

■ Thursday, June 1 at 9am is Tanapag Middle School promotion.

■ Friday, June 2, at 9am is Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. High School promotion and at 4pm is Dr. Rita H. Inos Sr. High School graduation.

■ Monday, June 5, at 9am is Dan Dan Middle School promotion; 4pm is Da'Ok Academy graduation.

■ Tuesday, June 6 at 9am is the Hopwood Middle School promotion; 4pm is Saipan Southern High School graduation.

■ Wednesday, June 7 at 1pm is Tinian Sr. High School graduation.

"Thank you, as always, for your patience and understanding. We encourage everyone to stay calm, safe, and protected during this time. For the most accurate information on the weather, designated shelters, and transportation to shelters, please refer to official notices from the Office of the Governor and Homeland Security and Emergency Management," said Ada.

In a short press conference yesterday afternoon at the Kagman High School campus, Ada said they are prepared for the use of the school as typhoon shelter.

The KHS shelter capacity is 120 people and if needed, the Kagman Youth Center will open up as a backup shelter.

"I think that many of the departments, the Multi-Agency Coordination departments, as well as PSS, we have now have our places in order— such as

logistics and planning, the PIO and even the Incident Command Center for PSS, that has been established and we are ready to go,"

Ada said.

The shelters have been activated and have been open since 4pm yesterday. Residents who need shelter assistance are asked to use the shelters closest to their homes. Residents are expected to bring their own bedding, food, and drinks in the shelter. No pets are permitted in the shelter unless the pet is a certified service animal. An ID should be presented upon entry.

Marianas High School (Cafeteria)

Koblerville Elementary School (Cafeteria)

Kagman High School (Cafeteria)

Tinian: Tinian Elementary School (Cafeteria)

Rota: Sinapalo Office on Aging

Rota: Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School. **(Leigh Gases)**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**RFP23-CHCC/LABORATORY-013**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 5th, 2023    TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**  
**"LABORATORY EXPANSION PROJECT #2"**  
**(Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring and Construction)**  
**for CHC Hospital / Laboratory Department**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**  
**CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**/S/ CORA P. ADA**  
**DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**

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# Kilili makes the case for HR 560 at two hearings

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) made the case at the U.S. of Representatives Armed Services Committee “Member Day” hearing Tuesday that his legislation, H.R. 560, or the Northern Mariana Islands Population Stabilization Act, would bolster the nation’s strategic interests in the Western Pacific by maintaining the population and

## » ‘NMI Population Stabilization Act would bolster the nation’s strategic interests in the Western Pacific’

prosperity of the Marianas.

H.R. 560 grants Marianas-only permanent residence to certain long-term foreign workers and investors who are already lawfully present in the islands.

In his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend, Sablan said he high-

lighted the Marianas’ priorities for inclusion in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 in his testimony at the Armed Services Committee “Member Day” hearing.

Sablan also underscored the need for action on H.R.560 at the U.S.

House’s Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee hearing Tuesday, amid the backdrop of expanding Chinese influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

The delegate noted that the Marianas population has declined over 12% since 2010 and that his legislation would help shore up the

population by allowing certain long-term foreign workers and investors already lawfully present on the islands to apply for permanent status in the Marianas.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## SHELTERS

From Page 1

3. Kagman High School (Cafeteria)
4. Tinian: Tinian Elementary School (Cafeteria)
5. Rota: Sinapalo Office on Aging
6. Rota: Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School

For Saipan, the Office on Aging will be open to accommodate persons with disabilities and those with medical needs. Services under these categories include individuals who are wheelchair bound, who need oxygen, and for those with ailments that do not need to be admitted at the hospital.

For Tinian, the Tinian Aging Center is open only for persons with disabilities or the elderly. For individuals requiring medical attention, the Tinian Health Center is open.

For Rota, the Office on Aging in Sinapalo is the designated shelter for persons with disabilities and the elderly. For individuals requiring medical attention, the Rota Health Center is open.

### Contact for transport to shelters

Contact information for transport services to typhoon shelters for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Residents who need transport services can contact these telephone numbers for transportation assistance:

#### SAIPAN:

- EOC State Warning Point: (670)

237-8000

#### TINIAN:

- Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority Tinian: (670) 433-0011
- Public School System Tinian: (670) 783-8962

- Tinian Municipality Operation Center: (670) 483-1800

#### ROTA:

- Rota Mayor’s Office: (670) 532-9451/2 (PR)

### CUC: Fill water tanks

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is recommending customers to fill water tanks and extra vessels, such as bathtubs, 5-gallon buckets, etc.

For the island of Rota: During heavy rain events, CUC will shut-off the main cave water source to avoid elevated turbidity level in the water system. While water turbidity levels are within acceptable range at this time, the current weather forecast due to the approaching storm may result in the need for an emergency water service interruption. Alternative sources will be activated. Therefore, customers on high elevation will be experiencing low water pressure to no water.

### Typhoon advisory for pregnant women

When Typhoon Condition II is declared, women pregnant 36 weeks or over and pregnant women at risk for preterm labor may seek shelter at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. For more information, call

670-234-8950. In case of an emergency call 911. (PR)

### 24-hour customer service phone lines

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is reminding the public of the importance of keeping the 24-hour Customer Service phone lines open for emergencies. Our priority is to ensure that the phone lines remain readily available for emergency utility situations where immediate assistance is required, such as down power lines, burning or sparking transformers, major water leaks, and/or sewer overflows.

If and when a storm or typhoon becomes unsafe to send our operators into the field to handle emergencies, we request that you report any hazards and maintain a safe distance until help becomes available.

For updates on electrical and water outages, contact the automated CUC Hotline at (670) 236-4333. (PR)

### PSS, NMC, NMTECH, private schools

The CNMI Public School System has announced that its classes are canceled today, May 23, until further notice. The continuation or cancellation of classes for other educational institutions will be announced by the respective institutions. (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## ROAD

From Page 1

in place until further notice.

The DPW secretary said he does not anticipate reopening Hibiscus Lane until after a physical check affirms the integrity of IPI’s tower crane, or unless it is taken down.

“I am in discussion with the At-

torney General’s Office on my legal options,” Yumul said.

He said they have not received a response from the Commonwealth Casino Commission about his request last May 1 to inspect IPI’s casino/resort building for safety. The building has been closed since the COVID-19 pandemic happened.

In his request for authority ad-

dressed to CCC board vice chair Rafael S. Demapan, Yumul said that an inspection is necessary to assess the existing condition of the electrical, mechanical, and standard components of the building, as well as to verify the integrity of the building and its welding connections. He added that they will also conduct a visual inspection of Tower Cranes No. 1 and 5 at the building.

## OAG

From Page 1

consumers should submit a written complaint to the OAG, along with copies of all receipts, invoices, or other documents associated with the complained-of transaction. Consumers should save all receipts, invoices, and other documents related to price gouging. When submitting a complaint to the OAG, consumers should submit copies of any supporting documents and retain the originals for their own records.

Complaint forms may be ob-

tained at [www.cnmioag.org](http://www.cnmioag.org) under the Consumer Protection section or in person at the Civil Division on Capitol Hill from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, or via email by sending a request to [consumer\\_counsel@cnmioag.org](mailto:consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org). Consumers who cannot obtain a complaint form may submit a written complaint that includes:

- (1) the name of the consumer and his or her contact information;
- (2) the name of the business and its location;
- (3) a description of goods or services purchased;
- (4) the date of the purchase;

- (5) the price paid for goods or services;

- (6) the price of the goods or services prior to Typhoon Mawar;

- (7) any other details that support the complaint; and

- (8) copies of receipts, invoices, or other documents that support the complaint.

Complaints should be hand-delivered to the Civil Division on Capitol Hill or submitted via email.

Inquiries regarding consumer protection complaints should be directed to assistant attorney general Hunter Hunt at [consumer\\_counsel@cnmioag.org](mailto:consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org) or (670) 237-7500. (PR)

# CPA’s grant application to support interisland air travel disapproved

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority’s 2022 Small Community Air Service Development Program grant application that was asking for \$1.9 million to support interisland air service through a minimum revenue guarantee has been disapproved, according to CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio.

In his recent report to Senate Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Tenorio disclosed that they have asked SCASDP Team from the U.D. Department of Transportation to debrief them on how to improve future applications so they’ll pass muster.

He said the SCASDP Team stated that the \$1.9 million that CPA was asking for was too large, there was no local cost match, and no public-private partnership.

Tenorio said the grantors suggested that CPA partner with local

agencies and obtain letters of support from government boards, politicians, and private entities to strengthen the CPA’s next application.

Tenorio provided information about SCASDP and other CPA-related issues in response to Manglona’s request during a recent PUTC public hearing.

The SCASDP provides financial assistance to small communities to help them enhance their air service.

Tenorio said there is no cap to the award amount, and only public entities may apply as the sponsor of the grant. He said there can be “consortium applications,” which are applications from multiple communities working together toward one grant project and objective.

He said the SCASDP is currently open with funding availability of up to \$15 million and that applications were due last May 17.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## ROTA

From Page 1

Tinian. Damaging winds of 39 mph or more are expected tonight. A Typhoon Watch remains in effect for Saipan and Tinian.

At this time, Typhoon Mawar was continuing to track toward the southern Marianas and is now expected to pass between the islands Rota and Guam, which means typhoon strength winds are expected to affect the island of Rota. Maximum sustained winds have gone up to 100 mph.

In a press conference following yesterday’s three-hour long briefing, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios shared that emergency response efforts will be focused on Rota as it is expected to bear the brunt of the storm. MAC representatives have already been deployed to Rota yesterday afternoon to identify Rota’s needs, both pre- and post-Mawar.

“We have begun mobilizing assets, including federal and local resources, to assist in preparation and recovery efforts specifically for Rota. We are very concerned because that’s the closest island that is going to feel the impact,” he said.

“We’ve begun...pre-disaster preparations for Rota and we will be sending out representatives this afternoon from [the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services], [Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality], [and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.]. Post-storm, we will be sending a lot of resources as well as people to help

in recovery efforts,” he said.

Palacios said he has already issued a state of emergency declaration, and has requested President Joe Biden to issue a pre-landfall disaster declaration to further aid Rota in preparation for Mawar.

“We have...submitted a formal request to the President to declare a pre-landfall disaster declaration for the Commonwealth. That would assist by enabling the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Defense to assist in preparations pre-landfall for the Commonwealth. We hope to hear back from the White House in the next 24 hours,” Palacios said.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Franklin Babauta outlined Rota’s need for a generator to ensure that the Rota Health Center does not lose power during the storm. He said the generator remains on Saipan as of press time and is unsure when the generator will be transported to Rota.

“Rota is still waiting for a generator for the hospital. We still have the generator here on Saipan but the capability to move the generator is our challenge. Most of the movement now is [by sea] through the Rota channel and that can be challenging right now. It all depends on the vendor that is going to be moving the generator and supplies from Saipan to Rota. It all depends on the weather condition,” he said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



# USCG, partners prepare for Mawar's arrival in Guam, CNMI

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, federal, territorial, and port partners continue Monday, May 22, 2023, to prepare for Typhoon Mawar, which is expected to arrive today, Tuesday.

Typhoon Mawar strengthened and is intensifying as it heads northwest. It is advisable to take advantage of the remaining time to prepare before tropical storm conditions arrive before the typhoon on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, and rapidly deteriorate. Conditions will gradually improve for eastern Yap and western Chuuk states of the Federated States of Micronesia.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam is on top of unit storm preparations. The USCGC *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139) and USCGC *Oli-*



U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam crews hold a weather brief on May 22, 2023, before Typhoon Mawar's arrival.

ver Henry (WPC 1140) crews sorted and are safely out to sea away from the storm,

while the third cutter crew on USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) remains on their regular patrol away from the affected area. U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor's boats are hauled out, trailered, or secured with heavy weather tie-downs. Crew securely fastened all buoys in the buoy yard to concrete sinkers. All ports are ready; commercial traffic departed, and teams prepared container yards for high winds. Crews are staffing all necessary watch sections and are actively working with on-island partners to be ready to conduct post-storm assessments.

The latest updates from the Joint Information Center posted to the Guam Homeland Security / Office of Civil Defense will continue. Guam is currently in Condition of Readiness 2, expecting tropical storm-force winds within

24 hours, and the JIC is providing updated school and shelter information and various closure announcements. Ongoing updates are available from National Weather Service Guam, and installation Facebook pages for more.

According to the National Weather Service, A high surf advisory remains in effect from 3pm yesterday afternoon to 3pm Thursday, for south-facing reefs. The public can expect large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet in the surf zone. A high risk of rip currents

remains in effect from 3pm yesterday afternoon through Thursday afternoon for east and south-facing reefs of the Marianas. The public should also anticipate dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Remain out of the water.

A small craft advisory remains in effect from 3pm yesterday afternoon to 3pm Thursday. Inexperienced mariners should avoid navigating in hazardous conditions, especially those operating smaller vessels.

Port Heavy Weather Condition Yankee is in effect suspending all commercial traffic. Port Heavy Weather Condition Zulu will be set by the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port for Guam and CNMI at 6:30pm Monday, suspending all maritime traffic and any cargo or bunkering operations. Search and rescue assets and crews are standing by, but as the storm approaches, responders may not be able to get on the scene until the storm passes. Social media is not a recommended method to call for assistance as it is monitored intermittently. The use of 911 or VHF FM Channel 16 are the recommended ways to report distress.

For the latest advisory information, visit:

■ National Weather Service website: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

■ NWS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NWS-Guam/>

■ Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense website: <https://ghs.guam.gov/>

■ GHS/OCDC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCDC/>

■ Joint Region Marianas Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jrmguam> (USCG)

## 'Applications for CUC chief's post now with EPA for vetting'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has already sent to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for vetting some of the applications it has received for the executive director position.

Acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje said in an interview last Wednesday that they've already sent last week some of the applications they've gotten for the vacant CUC executive director post.

With respect to the deputy executive director's position, Chretien T. Voerg just left CUC last week so Terlaje said they have enough time to look for applicants.

"As soon as we get some good applications, we will send them out to EPA for vetting," she said.

Voerg resigned as deputy executive director for water/wastewater last April 26, just two days after being designated as acting executive director in place of Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr.

CUC board of directors chair Janice A. Tenorio had terminated Peavey as acting executive director and as deputy director for electric power systems last April 24. Peavey had become the acting executive director last Feb. 21 after executive director Gary P. Camacho resigned.

CUC is mandated by federal court orders to fill certain positions within 150 days.

With CUC being required to fill the executive director and deputy executive director positions, Terlaje said she is sure that EPA is waiting

for CUC to send them the applications for vetting.

Under the Commonwealth Code, the CUC board of directors is required to appoint an executive director to administer the operations of the corporation on behalf of the board.

The court-stipulated orders require CUC to hire qualified individuals in critical positions, including the executive director. Stipulated order number 1 sets the minimum qualifications for executive director. The deputy executive director is also a stipulated order mandated position.



Terlaje

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500 / 1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM](https://WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM)

### AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

"Retail Concession"

CPA-RFP-005-23

for:

CPA Concession No. RCA-2022-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide retail services to the traveling public at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Retail Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide retail services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of Three (3) years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-23 is **April 20, 2023**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport or at the administration office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Retail Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 12:00 p.m. (noon) on May 26, 2023**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/  
CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director



Eli D. Cabrera  
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
[www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)



Richard V. Salas  
Director, DCRM

## NOTICE OF RENEWAL

### CRM WATERSPORTS AND RECREATIONAL PERMIT

## RENEWAL DEADLINE: MAY 30TH, 2023

### NOTICE TO ALL CNMI MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS

THE DIVISION COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM) OF THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY (BECQ-DCRM) WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL MARINE SPORT OPERATORS THAT RENEWAL OF YOUR WATERSPORTS AND RECREATIONAL PERMIT EXPIRES ON MAY 30TH, 2023. TO AVOID ANY INTERRUPTION OF YOUR WATERSPORTS ACTIVITIES, PLEASE SUBMIT **A COMPLETE CRM PERMIT APPLICATION** TO DCRM ON OR BEFORE THE MAY 30TH DEADLINE. TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION OF YOUR CRM PERMIT APPLICATION, PLEASE ATTACH ALL REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WITH YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION INCLUDING A COPY OF YOUR PAYMENT RECEIPT ISSUED BY THE CNMI TREASURY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CRM PERMIT APPLICATION IS FINAL AND COMPLETE PRIOR TO SUBMISSION. SUBMISSION OF AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT.

DUE TO DCRM'S REGULATION CHANGES AFFECTING PERMIT AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES, DCRM WILL BE CHARGING FEES FOR RESUBMISSION OF A CRM PERMIT APPLICATION. THIS ADDITIONAL FEE IS APPLICABLE ONLY IF YOUR APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED AND FOUND TO BE INCOMPLETE AND RETURNED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT MR. NEIL TAISACAN AT [ntaisacan@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:ntaisacan@dcrm.gov.mp) OR MS. PRIMROSE TAITANO AT [ptaitano@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:ptaitano@dcrm.gov.mp) OR, BY CALLING (670) 664-8300.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



## 35 YEARS OF HARMONIOUS EXCELLENCE

## Saipan Community School celebrates musical legacy

Saipan Community School celebrated 35 years of musical legacy and development during the school's 35th Annual SCS Spring Band Concert on the evening of May 4, 2023, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, during which the school showcased the exceptional talents of its students and paid tribute to a rich tradition of musical excellence.

Under the inspiring direction of the accomplished Ruthi Fruit, the Advanced Band mesmerized the audience with their passionate rendition of *Arabian Dances* by Roland Barrett. The concert reached new heights as the immensely talented Vivian Chung and Emma Sablan delivered captivating solos that



left the crowd in awe of their musical prowess.

In a display of remarkable talent, the Beginning and Intermediate Bands enchanted the audience with their performances. The melodic strains of the traditional Appalachian Shaker Song, *Simple Gifts*, resonated through the venue, capturing the hearts of all in attendance. The spirited rendition of *Dreydl, Dreydl, Dreydl*,

a cherished Chanuka song, further delighted the audience. The emotive interpretations of *Amazing Grace* by John Newton and William Walker, as well as *Abide With Me* by H.F. Kyte and W.H. Monk, moved the hearts of all who experienced their profound beauty.

The Advanced Band presented a delightful performance of Beethoven's *Allegro for a Musical Clock*. The audi-

ence was then transported to a world of classical elegance as the band flawlessly interpreted *Winter* from Antonio Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. A flute trio composed of Byul An, Celine Park, and Joan Song captivated the crowd with their masterful performance, leaving an indelible impression.

As the evening progressed, the enchanting sounds of *Careless Whisper* by George Michael and Andrew Ridgeley filled the hall. The mesmerizing collaboration between Joan Song on the flute and David Park on the alto saxophone held the audience spellbound. The Advanced Band continued to shine with their renditions of *Brown Eyed Girl* by Van Morrison, arranged by Paul Murtha, and *Que Sera*,



*Sera* (Whatever Will Be, Will Be) by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans.


The saxophone trio, featuring the remarkable talents of Pat McDonald, David Park, and William Guo, delivered an extraordinary performance of *Ain't Misbehavin'* by Fats

Waller, leaving the audience yearning for more. A heartfelt tribute to the legendary Louis Armstrong followed, as the Advanced Band presented a medley arrangement by Eric Osterling, including timeless classics such as *What a Wonderful World*, *When the Saints Go Marching In*, *St. Louis Blues*, and *Hello Dolly!*


The energy soared to new heights with the vivacious sounds of *Shantendipity* by Sandy Feldstein and Larry Clark, featuring the exceptional skills of Joshua Yoo. The exhilarating rhythm of *Hot, Hot, Hot!* by Alphonsus Cas-sell, arranged by Paul Cook, had the audience on their feet, dancing and clapping along.

In a grand finale befitting the occasion, the concert band paid homage to the iconic film *Top Gun* with a spectacular medley arrangement by Robert W. The audience was enthralled by the breathtaking performances of *Top Gun Anthem*, *Take My Breath Away* (Love Theme from "Top Gun"), *Danger Zone*, and *Mighty Wings*. The sounds of the Concert Band resonated throughout the Multi-Purpose Center, leaving a lasting impression on all.

The enchanting melodies of *West Side Story* filled the air as the concert band performed a medley, including *Prologue*, *Maria*. (PR)



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

#### CUC-IFB-23-022

#### SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIVE (5) LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids to supply and deliver five (5) light-duty vehicles to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist with the project management and inspections for the CUC Water and Wastewater systems upgrades and improvements.

**This project is funded by a United States of Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) grant.**

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-23-022, Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Light-Duty Vehicles**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 20, 2023** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*


All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

**Questions or requests for clarification** will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2023**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

**BETTINA G. TERLAJE**  
Acting Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticm.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticm.com) • Website: [www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)

#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 03-2023

| Opening date: May 08, 2023                                                                                                                                                                                            | Closing date: May 26, 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Location: SAIPAN</b></p> <p><b>Position(s):</b> (1) ARFF Mechanic II<br/>(1) Custodial-I<br/>(1) Equipment Operator-I<br/>(1) General Maintenance-I<br/>(1) Master Electrician<br/>(2) Ports Police Trainee</p> | <p><b>SALARY</b></p> <p>PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr to \$15.85/hr)<br/>PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)<br/>PL 4/1 to 4/12 (\$8.41/hr to \$14.38/hr)<br/>PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr to \$13.70/hr)<br/>PL 19/1 to 19/12 (17.48/hr to \$29.90/hr)<br/>PL 5/1 (\$8.83/hr)</p> |
| <p><b>Location: TINIAN</b></p> <p><b>Position(s):</b> (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I<br/>(1) Custodial-I</p>                                                                                                 | <p><b>SALARY</b></p> <p>PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)<br/>PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)</p>                                                                                                                                                                |

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 26, 2023**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at [lorna.robert@cnmiports.com](mailto:lorna.robert@cnmiports.com) and [hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com](mailto:hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com) or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director



# NMHC asks CUC to hold off on planned disconnection

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In response to a notice of disconnection from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has asked CUC to hold off on the disconnection as they are reviewing the charges on their account.

NMHC corporate director Jesse S. Palacios wrote CUC acting executive director Betty

Terlaje last week addressing the recent notice of disconnection the agency had received.

In his letter, Palacios made known his intent to dispute the notice and is asking for documentation regarding their account, including related invoices, a detailed breakdown of charges, and any other supporting documentation so that they can thoroughly review them.



Palacios

“Due to the sensitivity of this issue, we are asking that any disconnections be held off until all documentation is provided to NMHC for proper payment. NMHC will need to review these charges and properly verify them on our end,” he said.

Palacios also stated that NMHC’s fiscal division has found some discrepancies on

a number of account balances that they intend to dispute.

“After a number of calls between our fiscal division and your billing team, we have concluded that there are a number of account balances that need further attention,” he stated.

Some of the discrepancies found, Palacios said, were a number of utility accounts in arrears related to tenant charges “which should not have been billed to NMHC.”

Palacios provided a list of NMHC’s CUC accounts, among them 12 NMHC housing subdivision units on Rota with arrears totaling \$309,922.28. The unpaid balance of each of the units ranged from \$1,600 to as much as \$108,000.

Another account NMHC is disputing is the Koblerville Youth Center.

“[This] account is in the care of the Office of the Governor. There should be a name change in process as NMHC is not responsible for this balance,” he said.

Similar to the Koblerville Youth Center account,

NMHC is disputing that there were a number of accounts under NMHC that were no longer under their control, therefore the responsibility to clear the remaining balance on these accounts should not be theirs to bear.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, CUC delivered disconnection notices to several government agencies last May 3, including the CNMI Supreme Court, over unpaid utility billings and charges in the amount of \$2,486,634; Legislative Bureau, \$38,487; Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, \$50,927; and NMHC, \$547,769.

## DPS seeks community’s help in theft case

The Department of Public Safety’s Crime Stoppers unit is asking the community for help with information regarding a recent theft at the Mariana Country Club in Marpi.

According to DPS spokesperson Fred Sato, Crime Stoppers needs the community’s help with information regarding two copper wire theft incidents at the former resort.

“Crime Stoppers and DPS are requesting any information you may have,” said Sato.

Sato said that DPS received a call about a burglary and theft incident at the Marianas Country Club warehouse last May 1, 2023, at around 9:21am.

Responding officers spoke with staff who informed them that 13 electrical breakers and copper wire were stolen from inside the warehouse.

The second reported incident occurred on May 4, at around 6:20am., Sato said a call was received by DPS 911 dispatch regarding another burglary and theft

incident at the Marianas Country Club.

The responding officer’s report stated that both a staff member and the on-duty security guard discovered that the

thieves had cut the padlocks on the warehouse door and stolen the copper wires inside. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*



### KATORI CEREMONY TO RESUME

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, third from left, welcomes Katori Shrine chief priest Takeshi Katori of Chiba, Japan, center standing, during a courtesy call on May 17, 2023, at the MVA office in Garapan, Saipan. On Oct. 28, 2023, the Katori group will hold their first annual Katori Shrine Festival at Sugar King Park on Saipan since prior to the pandemic. Also pictured are Marianas Tourism Ambassador Yoichi Matsumura, standing right; Japanese Society Association of Northern Mariana Islands president Seiji Sato, standing second from left; association vice president Hiroko Tenorio, front left, and other dignitaries and MVA staff.

MVA

## BOH temporarily closes Guam, Saipan branches today due to Typhoon Mawar



Bank of Hawai’i will close all branch operations in Guam and on Saipan today, May 23, due to Typhoon Mawar. The bank’s Hagatna and Harmon branches in Guam and its Gualo Rai Branch on Saipan will remain closed starting today until further notice.

The bank’s Koror branch in Palau will remain open.

Call Center operations remain open to assist customers. West Pacific region customers may continue to contact Bank of Hawai’i through its Call Center at 1-877-553-2424

for Guam and Saipan. Bank of Hawai’i’s Call Center on Guam will be automatically re-routed to Hawai’i.

Online and mobile banking services will continue to operate unless power interruptions are experienced. Bank of Hawai’i will also place public updates on all of its social media platforms.

Bank of Hawai’i will continue to assess the status of its West Pacific branches, and will update the public on branch closures and reopenings as Mawar continues on its path. *(PR)*



### NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>  
Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866 / 234-7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021

### PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, January 3, 2022, **Legacy Solutions, LLC (Cody T. and Tracy B. Norita)** applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Affordable Rental Housing Development Program. On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, Tracy B. Norita was appointed to serve as Department of Finance Secretary, for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Said applicant is aware of the housing needs of Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) families who have been affected by Super Typhoon Yutu. The CNMI has not been able to recover from this disaster quickly enough to meet the community’s housing needs. The Legacy Solutions, LLC Rental Housing Development project proposes to build one (1) housing unit, consisting of three bedrooms. The proposed project will contribute to addressing some of the market demands for affordable housing and the current housing shortages our island is experiencing. Tracy B. Norita is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR § 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

**Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Wednesday, May 31, 2023.**

Dated this 16th day of May, 2023.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

ROBERT T. TORRES  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 500730 OK  
5960 Plata Drive (Chalan Kiya)  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel.: 234-7859  
Fax: 234-5750

robert.torres@tllawgroup.com

Attorney for Petitioner Mark S. Taisacan

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
MARTIN MARATITA TAISACAN  
Decedent.

CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 23-0080

NOTICE OF HEARING  
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

DATE: June 1, 2023  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
JUDGE: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE MARTIN MARATITA TAISACAN OF HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Mark S. Taisacan has filed a Verified Petition to Admit Estate into Probate and Appointment of Administratrix, requesting the Court to admit the Estate of Martin Maratita Taisacan into Probate and to appoint **Mark S. Taisacan as the Administrator of the Estate.** The Attorney for the Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is 5960 Plata Drive (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 500730 Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased of his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication or claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law at the address hereon indicated.

Dated this 16th day of May 2023.

/s/ Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537  
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of  
**IRMINIA VICTORIA B. CEPEDA, also known as VICTORIA CEPEDA,**  
Deceased.

CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 23-0085

### NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Irminia Victoria B. Cepeda, also known as Victoria Cepeda, Deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at the hour of 10:00a.m. of the said day.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Irminia Victoria B. Cepeda, also known as Victoria Cepeda, Deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the date of first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: 18 May 2023

/s/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge



**CEDA**  
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147  
[www.developcnmi.com](http://www.developcnmi.com)

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

| POSITION                 | COMPTROLLER, exempt              |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| LOCATION AND DEPARTMENT  | CEDA SAIPAN OFFICE               |
| PER ANNUM                | Minimum \$70,000.00              |
| EMPLOYMENT TERM          | Two (2) Year Contract, renewable |
| EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT | HR 2023-01                       |
| OPENING DATE             | 05/10/2023                       |
| CLOSING DATE             | 05/26/2023 4:00 P.M.             |

Interested candidates can find the detailed job description and application form for the position on our website at <https://developcnmi.com/jva.html> or by scanning the QR code below.

Applications, along with a cover letter and CV, must be submitted to the CEDA Saipan office at 22390 Beach Road, Oleai, Unit 205, or by email to [m.sablan@developcnmi.com](mailto:m.sablan@developcnmi.com) and copied to [c.kintol@developcnmi.com](mailto:c.kintol@developcnmi.com) on or before the closing date of May 26, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

For inquiries, please contact Christy Kintol by email or at (670) 234-6245 ext. 310.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan  
Executive Director





# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 101

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Electric vehicles alone can't solve climate change

**A**rresting climate change requires, among other things, the widespread adoption of electric vehicles. But managing the transition from gas-powered cars won't be easy. President Joe Biden's administration has proposed new rules to sharply limit tailpipe emissions, with the aim of compelling automakers to devote at least two-thirds of new sales to EVs within the next decade. For this policy to work, the government will have to get a lot of other things right.

The logic behind the plan is straightforward: To eliminate carbon emissions by 2050, the US needs to slash pollution from cars and trucks. Getting more electric vehicles on the road will help. But without supporting policies, EVs are unlikely to cut carbon emissions as much as advocates envision. Policymakers owe the public an honest accounting of costs and benefits.

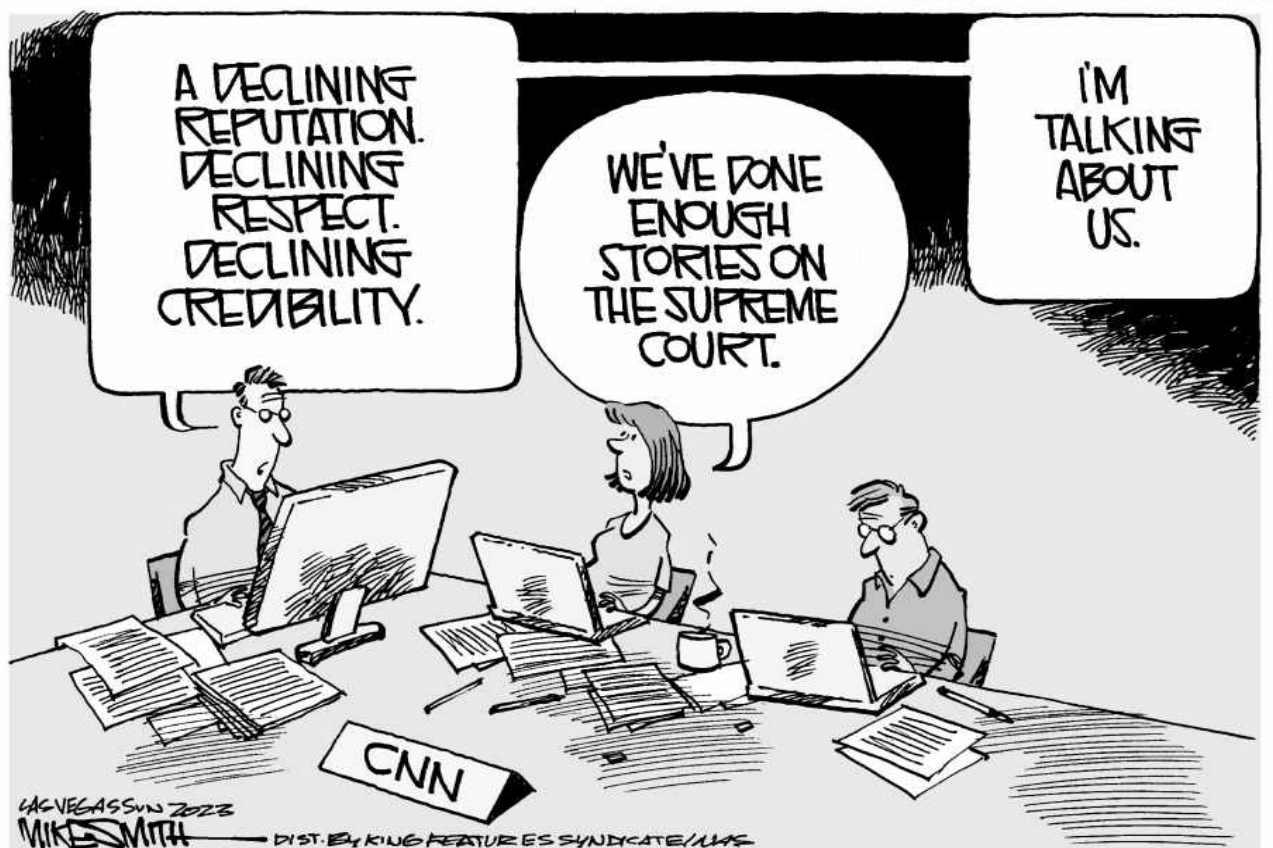
Worldwide, EVs account for 13% of new car sales, up from 0.2% a decade ago. Their market share in the US has nearly doubled over the last year, to 5.8%, thanks in part to federal tax credits of \$7,500 included in the Inflation Reduction Act. Biden's new regulations aim to accelerate the transition, by lowering the cap on carbon emissions for new vehicles by 56% between 2026 and 2032. For automakers to meet the tougher standards, 67% of their sales would have to come from zero-emission EVs. The administration projects that this will reduce the US's carbon footprint by 7.3 billion tons by 2055, the equivalent of eliminating four years' worth of transportation-related emissions.

Such goals are laudable, but as things stand it's doubtful that the US can achieve them. Generous subsidies have juiced demand for EVs, but maintaining them will be costly. The average price of a new EV is still \$12,000 higher than that of a gas guzzler. Experts project that it may reach parity as early as this year, but even then, Americans are unlikely to abandon their gas-powered cars if the battery-charging infrastructure remains inadequate. Note too that EV buyers don't typically stop driving their other cars: Current EV owners have an average of 2.7 vehicles, compared to 2.1 among all households, and two-thirds use their gas-powered vehicles more often.

Other factors will also complicate the transition. The auto industry's rapid shift to EVs at the expense of new and more efficient gas-powered models might cause some consumers to keep driving dirtier vehicles longer than they otherwise would. Electric vehicles also create carbon footprints of their own, once one accounts for the mineral extraction needed to assemble their batteries and the electricity needed to power them. That's to say nothing of the supply-chain challenges: At the moment, production of numerous vital components is largely controlled by China.

EV uptake should certainly be encouraged—but alongside measures to mitigate these challenges and guard against unintended consequences. Policymakers need to speed the buildout of charging stations and promote domestic extrac-

See **ELECTRIC** on Next Page



## What if Biden weren't running? Democrats have a bench that's deeper than you think

**T**he focus is fixed on Republicans when it comes to 2024 presidential primary politics: Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis reportedly will announce their bids for the party's nomination this week, making it a six-pack of competitors so far against the damaged but still dominant Donald Trump.

By contrast, there's relative calm on the Democratic side, where President Joe Biden has no major rivals for reelection. Yet the placidity belies simmering anxiety. Nearly a month after the president released the three-minute video confirming he is seeking a second term, he hasn't quieted doubts about his candidacy among party leaders and voters. If anything, the worries are mounting, flowing from his consistently low poll ratings and the fact of his advanced age.

Media surveys just before and after Biden's announcement, for NBC News and for the Washington Post/ABC News, respectively, showed that more Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters opposed his running again than favored it. Democratic operatives still speculate, in private conversations, about younger, more vibrant alternatives and "what if" scenarios. Biden's less-than-apparent heir, Vice President Kamala Harris, is excluded from the handicapping because she is even less popular in polls than he is.

The president, in his recorded announcement, confidently proclaimed, "This is our moment .... Let's finish this job." He's given no sign since of flagging.

But let's take a moment to consider some of the up-and-coming Democrats who are perhaps missing their moment given Biden's quest for four more years.

I continue to think that as long as Biden believes he can do the job for another five and a half years—until he's 86!—then he's earned his 2024 run. And yet, the fact is, the Democrats have a deeper bench of potentially presidential-caliber politicians than is generally appreciated. A handful are ready for prime time now. A few could use a bit more experience (though the same was often said in 2007-08 of then-Sen. Barack Obama).

Tops among the up-and-comers are two new governors, Wes Moore and Josh Shapiro, who demolished Trump-backed Republicans in November. Moore, an Army veteran of Afghanistan, former Rhodes Scholar, author and investment banker, is the first Black governor of Maryland. Shapiro, former Pennsylvania attorney general, won in his swing state on the strength of his reputation as a consensus-builder and on his prominence in fighting Republican efforts to overturn Pennsylvania's 2020 election results.

Their time could well come. But among those Democrats seasoned enough now for the presidential arena are more experienced governors, including Gretchen Whitmer in Michigan and

By **JACKIE CALMES**  
Los Angeles Times



Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.

North Carolina's Roy Cooper, both of whom impressively won reelection in their battleground states and have since gained national attention for their fights for abortion rights in their states. Second-term blue-state leaders J.B. Pritzker of Illinois, a billionaire whose family owns the Hyatt chain, and Phil Murphy of New Jersey, a former Goldman Sachs executive and ambassador to Germany, similarly have raised their profiles, speaking out against Trump and Republican extremism.

There's also Andy Beshear, the popular Democratic governor in very red-state Kentucky, who's running for reelection this year against a MAGA Republican, and Gavin Newsom, who has directly baited Trump and, more recently, DeSantis. (Latest round: Newsom needled DeSantis on Twitter Thursday for the Florida governor's "bigoted policies" that provoked Disney to pull the plug on a Florida project: "That's 2,000+ jobs that will be welcomed back with open arms to the Golden State.")

Sens. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Michael Bennet of Colorado and Cory Booker of New Jersey, as well as Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, all ran in 2020 and remain viable, though it's unclear how ambitious for the top job they remain. Another possibility: Mitch Landrieu, former lieutenant governor of Louisiana and mayor of New Orleans, widely respected for his work on race issues and now overseeing implementation of Biden's bipartisan infrastructure initiative.

Democrats' private talk of such alternatives will probably persist at least through Labor Day, when it will become all but too late to mount a serious presidential campaign. Even then their hand-wringing will likely continue, revived with each presidential stumble, malaprop or other reminder of Biden's age.

That's what Democrats do best, as even they'll tell you: wring their hands. But with a presidential candidate who's testing the actuarial tables, they have reason to fret. They can console themselves by thinking of future elections and their impressive contenders-in-waiting. But it's a shame that they have to wait. And it could be worse than a shame come November 2024.



# Yes, it's guns. Yes, it's mental health. It's everything. And government can't fix it

I am always amazed when, in the aftermath of a mass shooting such as the tragedy in Allen, Texas, both political parties expect their overly simplistic explanations to be taken seriously, their anemic policy proposals accepted as dependable solutions.

"It's the guns!" cries the left, recommending restrictions.

"It's mental health" insists the right, offering resources and better enforcement.

A reasonable arbiter would concede that both accounts contain some truth.

At the very least, a nation awash in guns (with minimal restrictions on purchases and ownership) is more likely to sustain more gun-related deaths, to include instances of mass violence. That seems a statistical likelihood.

To ignore the fact that these events, still uncommon enough to shock us, have increased in frequency alongside our nation's rapid and spiraling crises of mental health and social alienation is willfully ignorant of the darkening reality in which many Americans exist.

But neither explanation is anywhere near complete.

Mass shootings are a manifestation of a lot more than either side is willing to concede, and both offer solutions that would help only along the margins.

I'm perhaps unusual among my fellow conservatives in that the Second Amendment is not without limitations.

I have faith that the right to own a firearm (or 20) guaranteed by the Constitution is not going anywhere, and I will always argue in favor of retaining this most necessary protection.

But does that mean that every ordinary person that wants a high-powered rifle or a high-capacity magazine should have immediate and unfettered access to them?

I'm not so sure.

Is there a balance we can strike between personal freedom and public safety and responsibility?

I'd like to think so. At least I'm open.

My skepticism aside, I also concede that many of the gun restrictions Democrats propose (such as age limits) would have almost no discernible impact on events like the Allen shooting. Americans own about 400 million guns—with the lack of registration and a thriving black market, we don't even have an accurate accounting. The restrictions could, however, deprive some law-abiding Americans of their rights.

And Second Amendment advocates are correct that most gun owners (which includes pretty much everyone I know in Texas) will never use their firearms (including AR-15s) for any criminal end.

While I flinch each time I read the number of gun-related deaths in the U.S., I know that these tragedies do not occur in a vacuum. Except for gun-related accidents, gun deaths can rarely be untethered from some other yawning societal ill.

Mental illness is but one of them.

Drugs; fatherlessness; the rise in internet extremism of all kinds; the emasculation of our young men; the social alienation exacerbated by the pandemic and social media; and culture wars all play a role in fueling the anger and hatred present in almost every instance of mass violence our country sustains.

Indeed, the very same weekend that the Allen shooter unleashed mayhem in North Texas, another killer, perhaps similarly fueled by anger, enacted carnage in Brownsville, mowing

By **CYNTHIA M. ALLEN**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram



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down at least eight migrants.

He didn't need a gun; he used his vehicle.

Extremism remains a connecting thread in many of these events, but we can no longer insist they are solely the consequence of white supremacy as we have come to understand it.

The killers in Allen and Brownsville and Uvalde all have Hispanic surnames. The Nashville shooter was LGBTQ and a biological female.

The cultural sickness that transmutes alienation and anger into mass violence is no longer isolated to one category of perpetrator; he or she cannot be easily identified and potentially thwarted.

The darkness and the rot pervades every inch of the Internet and every medium of communication.

It fills the emptiness left by social isolation, the loss of faith in our institutions, indeed, our loss of faith and God in general.

If events like the shooting in Allen leave you feeling hopeless, I don't blame you.

Where I will find fault is if you think the government can do anything about it.

It won't because it can't, except for perhaps around the edges.

So yes, it's the guns. Yes, it's mental health.

It's also everything else.

I suppose the first step towards recovery is acceptance.

## May Runes: Numbers and Nods to Tunes

### LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

### Heart and Mouth and Deed and Life

*Herz und Mund und Tat un Leben* (Heart and Mouth and Deed and Life) is a famous cantata written by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) in 1723. J.S. Bach wrote the music, others wrote the text. From it comes the song *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*.

Heart and mouth and deed and life

Put together in the words of a musical poem

Cutting through the music like a knife

Hits the nail on the head and drives it home.

Our heart gets worn out near our death

When good and bad deeds have had their run

Our literate lungs seem to lose their breath

As life stumbles between tragedy and fun.

Put together in a basket covered with skin

Bach gave us 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring'

Tissues of trouble, desire, and joy worn thin

Our corpus callosum connects the wiring.

Joys, sorrows, happiness meet together in sin

If you answer this rune you will never begin.

### Mother's Love: A Complex Googolplex

Billions of galaxies in the universe we know

Billions of stars in those galaxies galore

Billions of planets where things might grow

Billions of grains of sand on the shore.

Millions of birds fly all around the world

Millions of worms, bugs, and flying insects

Millions of flowers with petals unfurled

Millions of creatures reproduce by sex.

Billions of mothers in the history of Earth

Billions of mothers give all they can give

Millions of mothers annually give birth

Millions of mothers die so that we can live.

Mothers teach us all with love and mirth

Pouring out their hearts for all it is worth.

## The possible disaster of climate change fear

President Joe Biden wants to save us from climate change but who will save us from Joe Biden? The latest trick issuing from his consciously misnamed Inflation Reduction Act is a 681-page rule that could disastrously shut down 3,400 fossil-fuel power plants supplying 60% of our electric power. For them to avoid closure, they would need to eliminate 617 million tons of CO2 emissions even though the means remain iffy at best.

He's a science denier, Biden is, and that's part of the danger. Scientists agree that atmospheric CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels reflect dangerous heat back to the earth, but not that we will thereby be wiped out. Biden uses the phrase "existential threat" as if climate change will exterminate humankind. Most scientists agree that the hotter it gets, the worse life will be, but don't go that far.

The power plants can supposedly use their own CO2 solution, although the possibilities are limited, and one recommendation of the Environmental Protection Agency sounds like a command: carbon capture. Here is a truly great idea that has been lousy in action but could be an element of progress if shutdowns weren't in the path.

What the technology poorly does at far more than the current cost of producing electricity is remove CO2 from the fossil fuel fumes. It then transports the wicked pollutants thousands of miles through wretchedly expensive pipelines to underground, fortified captivity. Lobbyists have told reporters the plants can't meet the deadlines for this aspiration. The same is true with other possibilities. Experts cite the extreme difficulty of mixing hydrogen with natural gas to thwart CO2, something that vastly outprices natural gas by itself.

The total transition cost could be unaffordable even with subsidies, and the already overregulated plants reduced CO2 more than is sought in this required undertaking by switching from coal to natural gas on their own. If they can't meet the EPA deadlines and are forced to shut down, imagine candles replacing light bulbs and the matter summed up by the industrial system going back to the Middle Ages and modernity on a stretcher.

The whole thing could be unconstitutional anyway. The federal government can't just march around the country telling ev-

By **JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service



Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at [speaktojay@aol.com](mailto:speaktojay@aol.com).

everyone what to do, least of all without congressional backing. President Barack Obama tried to tell states how much to cut emissions with the Supreme Court finally saying forget it. Some think the Inflation Reduction Act will rescue this plan from the court except bunches of state attorneys general say it won't.

Biden, however, sees this project as the only way to meet his promises of truly significant emission cuts by 2030, and the question for some of us is why something less disastrous than outright shutdowns wasn't put forward if things don't work out.

Yes, carbon capture has its magic. If made workable, it would save fossil fuels of which we have plenty. It might also address the health issue the Biden team worries about, namely power plant smokestacks killing hundreds of people and inflicting thousands of illnesses by what they pump into the air. Without governmental threats of blowing up what previously did the job, Texas is beginning to show that renewables can work and Norway has achieved amazing results of producing electricity with ocean tides and waves.

Biden has to be carefully watched, as in his having cut down on our production of fossil fuels before replacements were available and forcing us to purchase them from foreign countries. We lost money and did nothing to lessen climate change threats. Please remember that none of our already strenuous efforts will halt earthly climate change unless adversarial China gets in line, and meanwhile we could cheat ourselves out of the economic means necessary for later dealing with climate change effects, such as building embankments as oceans rise.

### ELECTRIC

From Page 9

tion of critical minerals. No less important, cheaper fuel-efficient alternatives and rival zero-emission technologies should be allowed to compete with EVs on level terms.






Ideally, an economy-wide tax on carbon emissions should be part of the mix. This would raise the price of gasoline and encourage consumers to buy clean-energy cars (regardless of the technology used) while driving their older, dirtier models less. Crucially, it would also promote energy efficiency more broadly

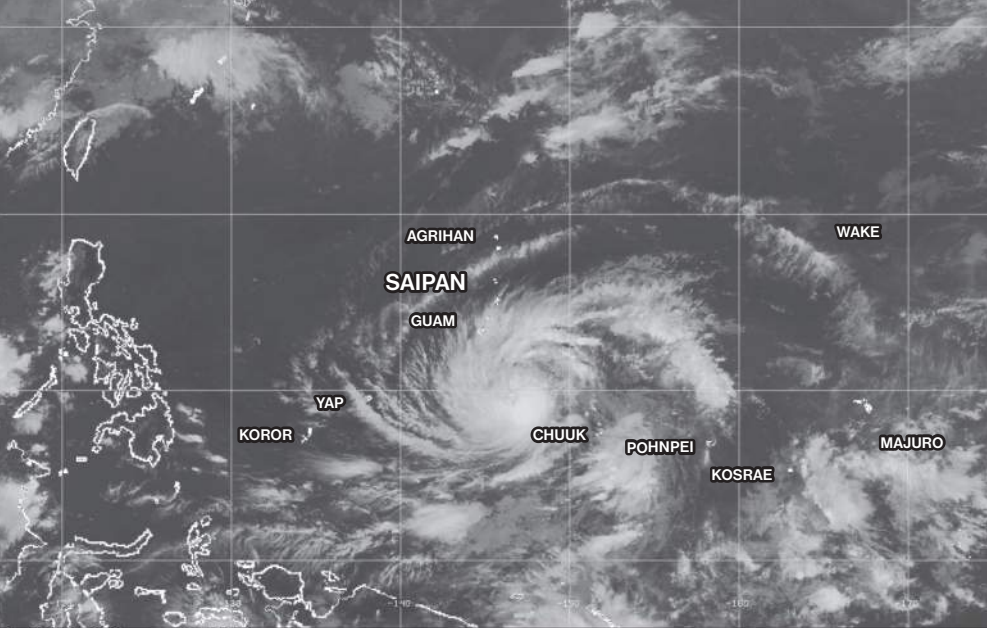
and accelerate efforts to decarbonize the supply of electricity. Granted, building political support in the US for a carbon tax is challenging. Until that changes, the government can still incentivize low-carbon transportation more effectively—by extending tax credits to gas-powered hybrids and imposing congestion charges on high-polluting cars in urban areas, for example.

Fighting climate change requires a comprehensive and coherent strategy. EVs are part of the answer, but only part. Much hard work remains to be done.



# The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN                                                     |     |                                                                                       |     |                                                                                       |     |                                                                                   |     |                                                                                   |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| TODAY                                                                                    |     | WEDNESDAY                                                                             |     | THURSDAY                                                                              |     | FRIDAY                                                                            |     | SATURDAY                                                                          |     |
|         |     |      |     |      |     |  |     |  |     |
| Scattered showers and thunderstorms, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 7am. |     | Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. |     | Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. |     | Showers likely, mainly before 7am.                                                |     | A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy                                                |     |
| 86°                                                                                      | 79° | 85°                                                                                   | 79° | 85°                                                                                   | 79° | 86°                                                                               | 79° | 86°                                                                               | 79° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE                                                              |     |                                                                                       |     |                                                                                       |     |                                                                                   |     |                                                                                   |     |



**PICTURE TIME: 8:11 AM, MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Mawar to the south-southeast is bringing cloudiness across the Marianas. Scattered showers are seen southeast of the waters and Ipan buoy is reporting combined seas of 4 to 5 ft.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

| MICRONESIA    |                         |           | ▲▼°F |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|------|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms/Wind      | 85° / 79° |      |
| Palau         | Scattered Thunderstorms | 85° / 77° |      |
| Yap           | Thunderstorms           | 87° / 80° |      |
| Chuuk         | Thunderstorms           | 86° / 79° |      |
| Pohnpei       | Thunderstorms           | 88° / 79° |      |
| Kosrae        | Thunderstorms           | 85° / 80° |      |
| Majuro        | Thunderstorms           | 86° / 81° |      |

| DAY       | SUNRISE | SUNSET  |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today     | 5:46 AM | 6:40 PM |
| Wednesday | 5:46 AM | 6:41 PM |
| Thursday  | 5:46 AM | 6:41 PM |
| Friday    | 5:46 AM | 6:41 PM |
| Saturday  | 5:46 AM | 6:42 PM |

| DAY       | MOONRISE | MOONSET  | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today     | 8:27 AM  | 10:00 PM | -        |
| Wednesday | 9:21 AM  | 10:48 PM | -        |
| Thursday  | 10:14 AM | 11:32 PM | -        |
| Friday    | 11:05 AM | -        | -        |
| Saturday  | -        | 12:12 AM | 11:54 AM |

| AROUND THE GLOBE |                         |           | ▲▼°F |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------|
| Auckland         | Cloudy                  | 64° / 57° |      |
| Beijing          | Partly Cloudy           | 88° / 63° |      |
| Hong Kong        | Scattered Thunderstorms | 81° / 76° |      |
| Honolulu         | Mostly Cloudy           | 84° / 73° |      |
| London           | Cloudy                  | 65° / 48° |      |
| Los Angeles      | Partly Cloudy           | 73° / 60° |      |
| Manila           | Thunderstorms           | 92° / 81° |      |
| Melbourne        | Cloudy                  | 62° / 50° |      |
| Miami            | Partly Cloudy           | 84° / 77° |      |
| New York         | Mostly Sunny            | 75° / 55° |      |
| Osaka            | Cloudy                  | 71° / 57° |      |
| Paris            | Cloudy                  | 69° / 47° |      |
| Busan            | Mostly Sunny            | 69° / 57° |      |
| Rome             | Light Rain              | 78° / 57° |      |
| Salem            | Thunderstorms           | 73° / 61° |      |
| San Francisco    | Partly Cloudy           | 66° / 52° |      |
| Seoul            | Sunny                   | 80° / 53° |      |
| Tokyo            | Rain                    | 61° / 55° |      |
| Washington, DC   | Mostly Sunny            | 82° / 57° |      |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY |           |       | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| 4:32 AM                    | Low Tide  | 1.45  |      |
| 8:35 AM                    | High Tide | 1.80  |      |
| 4:18 PM                    | Low Tide  | -0.09 |      |
| 11:58 PM                   | High Tide | 1.89  |      |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023

| DEPARTURES           |        |         |                      | ARRIVALS             |         |          |                        |
|----------------------|--------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|------------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)    |        |         |                      | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN    |         |          |                        |
| UA117                | 9:50AM | 10:35AM | Daily                | UA174                | 8:00AM  | 8:45AM   | Daily                  |
| SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT) |        |         |                      | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN  |         |          |                        |
| UA824                | 7:25AM | 9:55AM  | 1, 3, 5              | UA825                | 9:25PM  | 1:50AM+1 | 2, 4, 7                |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL)    |        |         |                      | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM    |         |          |                        |
| PR 111               | 5:55AM | 7:55AM  | Daily                | UA184                | 10:25PM | 4:15AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7          |
| UA193                | 6:55PM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Palau       | UA189                | 10:25PM | 6:10AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau         |
| UA183                | 7:15PM | 9:10PM  | Daily                | PR110                | 10:30PM | 4:25AM+1 | Daily                  |
|                      |        |         |                      | UA192                | 11:50PM | 5:35AM+1 | 2, 5                   |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)  |        |         |                      | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN  |         |          |                        |
| OZ626/703            | 4:20AM | 10:35PM | 1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN   | UA184/174            | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam |
| UA117/183            | 9:50AM | 9:10PM  | Daily via Guam       | UA192/174            | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam   |
| UA117/193            | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau | UA184/174            | 11:50PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Guam          |
| SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN) |        |         |                      | INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN |         |          |                        |
| TW308                | 3:15AM | 7:00AM  | Daily                | 7C3406               | 9:30AM  | 3:10PM   | Daily                  |
| OZ626                | 4:20AM | 7:55AM  | 1, 4, 5, 7           | TW307                | 8:30PM  | 2:15AM+1 | Daily                  |
| 7C3403               | 4:45AM | 8:35AM  | Daily                | OZ625                | 9:25PM  | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7             |
| 7C3405               | 4:10PM | 7:45PM  | Daily                | 7C3405               | 10:10PM | 3:40AM+1 | Daily                  |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

| SAIPAN TO ROTA   |         |         |             | ROTA TO SAIPAN   |         |         |             |
|------------------|---------|---------|-------------|------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY   | FLIGHT #         | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY   |
| 1301             | 8:30    | 9:00    | Daily       | 3101             | 9:30    | 10:00   | Daily       |
| 1302             | 11:00   | 11:30   | Mon/Wed/Fri | 3102             | 13:00   | 13:30   | Tues/Thurs/ |
| 1302             | 12:00   | 12:30   | Tues/Thurs/ |                  |         |         | Sat/Sun     |
|                  |         |         | Sat/Sun     | 3102             | 14:00   | 14:30   | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1303             | 15:30   | 16:00   | Daily       | 3103             | 16:30   | 17:00   | Daily       |
| ROTA TO GUAM     |         |         |             | GUAM TO ROTA     |         |         |             |
| LIGHT #          | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY   | FLIGHT #         | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY   |
| 3401             | 12:00   | 12:30   | Mon/Wed/Fri | 4301             | 13:00   | 13:30   | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN |         |         |             | TINIAN TO SAIPAN |         |         |             |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY   | FLIGHT #         | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY   |
| 1202             | 8:00    | 8:15    | Daily       | 2102             | 8:30    | 8:45    | Daily       |
| 1203             | 9:00    | 9:15    | Daily       | 2103             | 9:30    | 9:45    | Daily       |
| 1204             | 10:00   | 10:15   | Daily       | 2104             | 10:30   | 10:45   | Daily       |
| 1208             | 14:00   | 14:15   | Daily       | 2108             | 14:30   | 14:45   | Daily       |
| 1209             | 15:00   | 15:15   | Daily       | 2109             | 15:30   | 15:45   | Daily       |
| 1210             | 16:00   | 16:15   | Daily       | 2110             | 16:30   | 16:45   | Daily       |
| 1211             | 17:00   | 17:15   | Daily       | 2111             | 17:30   | 17:45   | Daily       |

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# Business

## Mortes is GRMC 2023 DAISY Award honoree



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Chloe Mortes is presented the 2023 DAISY Award by GRMC Care Management and Coordination director Mary Grace Libo-on, Vice Speaker Tina Muña Barnes, Speaker and Senator Therese Terlaje, GRMC chief of staff Dr. Edison Manaloto, GRMC chief nursing officer Jennifer Cruz, GRMC CEO and president Alan Funtanilla, Marketing & Business Development vice president Eric Plinske; Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, and GRMC Support Services vice president Bernie Lobaton.

**DEDEDO, Guam**—Guam Regional Medical City held its 3rd Annual DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Awards last May 12 at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort. Each year, an extraordinary nurse is recognized for the significant impact that they have had on the lives of their patients. This year's DAISY Award honoree is Chloe Mortes, a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

The DAISY Awards was hosted by Shanice Poe from Hit Radio 100, and attended by the nominees and their guests, GRMC's executive team, several clinical and non-clinical staff, the judging panel—Speaker and Senator Therese Terlaje, Vice Speaker Tina Muña Barnes, GRMC director of Care Management and Coordination Mary Grace Libo-on, GRMC chief of staff Dr. Edison Manaloto, Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

Mortes was selected through voting by her colleagues, patients and their families, and the judging panel. Judges were tasked to judge blindly, meaning that they would make their decision based on no other information but the nominees' stories. Mortes was initially nominated by fellow registered nurse, Patrick Callang, who had this to say about her: "Chloe is a dedicated nurse who works tirelessly to care for her patients. She is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure they receive the best possible care [.]". He shares a story of how Chloe, without hesitation, immediately took charge of a patient who was admitted with pneumonia. The patient's family was struggling to cope with the illness, so Chloe went above and beyond to provide the emotional support they needed. Thanks to Chloe's exceptional care and support, the patient was able to recover and return home to their family. This was just one of many

examples of Mortes' unwavering commitment to serve our patients and their families.

Mortes began her career at GRMC's ICU in July 2019 as a graduate nurse. Later that year, she graduated from the University of Guam, and became a registered nurse.

In her opening remarks, GRMC chief nursing officer Jennifer Cruz briefly spoke on the significance and honor of the DAISY Awards. She said, "As we know, nursing is not a profession, but a vocation—a calling to serve and care for those in need. The nurses we will recognize today have demonstrated this through their unwavering commitment to their patients, their willingness to go the extra mile, and their compassionate approach to healthcare."

Leon Guerrero shared that one of the most gratifying careers she has had in the last 50 years was being a nurse. During her address she said, "Because of my nursing academia, experience, and clinical practices, I have been able to continue being a strong leader. I have been able to continue being compassionate and caring for the people. Because at the end of the day that's what we, as nurses, are all about. How do we lift the lives and the quality of healthcare for our people?" As an honorary DAISY recipient since 2022, she also shares that she wears her DAISY pin everywhere with "great pride and honor."

GRMC CEO and president Alan Funtanilla expressed his gratitude and congratulations to all nominees and to this year's honoree. "You, our nurses, have been the steadfast core of our patient care services. True to this year's National Nurses Week theme, you have made a difference—a tremendous difference. I am proud to work with so many of you—dedicated individuals like you. I'm proud of the promise you fulfill to care for the commu-

nities we serve. I am proud of the commitment you have to our mission, which is to take care of our patients and their families, as we would our beloved family members," he said during his remarks.

As this year's DAISY Award recipient, Mortes received a certificate proclaiming the recipient an "Extraordinary Nurse," a DAISY Award pin, a unique, hand-carved serpentine stone from Zimbabwe entitled, "A Healer's Touch," a Spotlight feature on the DAISY website, a Spotlight feature on GRMC's social media, eligibility to receive a reduced tuition rate at the Chamberlain University College of Nursing, and more.

There were 18 registered nurses who were nominated for the DAISY Award. The nominees were: Catherine Ballesteros (Medical Telemetry), Dean Conner (Medical Telemetry), Bernice Cruz (Nursing Administration, Perioperative Services), Anna De Belen (Radiation Oncology), Valerie De La O (Medical Surgical), Sherylou Del Mundo (Operating Room), Christine Kaye Gabo (Medical Surgical), Yoo Kyong Ha (Emergency Department), Kuhkee Joo (Medical Surgical), Eun A Kim (Medical Surgical), Marie Angela Lopena (Emergency Department), Summer Medler (Radiation Oncology), Karen Sabuya (Cardiac Catheterization), Joanna Sunga (Cancer Center), Shanease Tudela (ICU), Debbie Wang (Medical Surgical), 2022 DAISY Award honoree, Kristine Conde (Nursing Administration, ICU), and Chloe Mortes.

Guests who attended the event were each given Cinnabon buns as a tribute to Barnes, as this was the only food he could withstand during his illness. The Dusit Thani staff also created a gigantic cinnamon bun cake that was cut by Chloe at the end of the ceremony. **(PR)**

# Nation

## 1 YEAR AFTER UVALDE SHOOTING

## Probe of police response continues

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)**—A criminal investigation in Texas over the hesitant police response to the Robb Elementary School shooting is still ongoing as Wednesday marks one year since a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers inside a fourth-grade classroom in Uvalde.

The continuing probe underlines the lasting fallout over Texas' deadliest school shooting and how the days after the attack were marred by authorities giving inaccurate and conflicting accounts about efforts made to stop a teenage gunman armed with an AR-style rifle.

The investigation has run parallel to a new wave of public anger in the U.S. over gun violence, renewed calls for stricter firearm regulations and legal challenges over authorities in Uvalde continuing to withhold public records related to the shooting and the police response.

Here's a look at what has happened in the year since one of America's deadliest mass shootings:

### POLICE SCRUTINY

A damning report by Texas lawmakers put nearly 400 officers on the scene from an array of federal, state and local agencies. The findings laid out how heavily armed officers waited more than hour to confront and kill the 18-year-old gunman. It also accused police of failing "to prioritize saving innocent

lives over their own safety."

All of the students killed were between the ages of 9 and 11 years old.

At least five officers who were put under investigation after the shooting were either fired or resigned, although a full accounting is unclear. The head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Col. Steve McCraw, put much of the blame after the attack on Uvalde's school police chief, who was later fired by trustees.

McCraw had more than 90 of his own officers at the school—more than any other agency—and has rebuffed calls by some Uvalde families and lawmakers to also resign.

Uvalde County District Attorney Christina Mitchell said last week that Texas Rangers are still investigating the police response and that her office will ultimately present the findings to a grand jury. She said she did not have a timeline for when the investigation would be finished.

### CALLS FOR GUN CONTROL INTENSIFY

President Joe Biden signed the nation's most sweeping gun violence bill in decades a month after the shooting. It included tougher background checks for the youngest gun buyers and added more funding for mental health programs and aid to schools.

It did not go as far as restrictions sought by some

Uvalde families who have called on lawmakers to raise the purchase age for AR-style rifles. In the GOP-controlled Texas Capitol, Republicans this year rejected virtually all proposals to tighten gun laws over the protests of the families and Democrats.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has also waved off calls for tougher gun laws, just as he did after mass shootings at a Sutherland Springs church in 2017 and an El Paso Walmart in 2018. The issue has not turned Texas voters away from Abbott, who easily won a third term months after the Uvalde shooting.

### UVALDE GRIEVES

The Uvalde school district permanently closed the Robb Elementary campus and plans for a new school are in the works. Schools in Uvalde will be closed on Wednesday.

About a dozen students in the classroom where the shooting unfolded survived the attack. Some returned to class in person last fall. Others attended school virtually, including a girl who spent more than two months in the hospital after being shot multiple times.

Veronica Mata, a kindergarten teacher in Uvalde, also returned to class this year after her 10-daughter Tess was among those killed in the attack.

Some Uvalde families have filed lawsuits against the gun maker and law enforcement.

## Biden, McCarthy to hold pivotal meeting on debt ceiling

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy are set to meet at the White House at a pivotal moment as Washington works to strike a budget compromise and raise the nation's borrowing limit in time to avert a devastating federal default.

The meeting Monday afternoon between the Democratic president and the new Republican speaker will be critical as they race to prevent a looming debt crisis. After a weekend of start-stop talks, both men appeared upbeat as they face a deadline, as soon as June 1, when the government could run out of cash to pay its bills.

Biden and McCarthy spoke by phone Sunday while the president was returning home on Air Force One after the Group of Seven summit in Ja-

pan. "It went well, we'll talk tomorrow," Biden said in response to a shouted question upon his return late Sunday.

The call revived talks and negotiators met for 2 1/2 hours at the Capitol late Sunday evening, saying little as they left. Financial markets turned down last week after talks stalled.

McCarthy, R-Calif., told reporters earlier Sunday that the call with Biden was "productive" and that the on-again, off-again negotiations between his staff and White House representatives are focused on spending cuts.

Biden told a press conference before departing from Japan: "I think that we can reach an agreement."

The contours of an agreement appear within reach, and the negotiations have narrowed on a 2024 budget

year cap that would be key to resolving the standoff. Republicans have insisted next year's spending cannot be more than current 2023 levels, but Democrats have refused to accept the steeper cuts McCarthy's team first proposed.

A budget deal would unlock a separate vote to lift the debt ceiling, now \$31 trillion, to allow more borrowing to pay bills already incurred bills. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday that June 1 is a "hard deadline."

"We'll keep working," said Steve Ricchetti, counselor to the president, as the White House team exited talks late Sunday.

McCarthy said after his call with Biden that "I think we can solve some of these problems if he understands what we're looking at."



# Asia

## India to project normalcy in disputed region of Kashmir

**SRINAGAR, India (AP)** — As India prepares to host a meeting of tourism officials from the Group of 20 in the disputed region of Kashmir, authorities have deployed elite commandos and stepped up security in the region's largest city.

The meeting will be the first significant international event in Kashmir since New Delhi stripped the Muslim-majority region of semi-autonomy in 2019. Indian authorities are hoping the meeting will show that the controversial changes have brought "peace and prosperity" to the region.

Since the 2019 changes, the city, known for rolling Himalayan foothills and exquisitely decorated houseboats, has become a major domestic tourist destination. Hotels have been mostly booked out for months. Kashmir has also drawn millions of visitors, who enjoy a strange peace kept by ubiquitous security checkpoints, armored vehicles and patrolling soldiers.

For the G20 meeting, the city has spruced up its commercial center and roads leading to the convention center on Dal Lake, while police have increased security even further, placing a massive security cordon around the site.

On a recent Wednesday, gun-toting naval commandos in rubber boats mingled with tourists

in canary-yellow gondolas.

Paul Staniland, a political scientist who studies South Asia at the University of Chicago, said the G20 meeting is "in line with Indian government policy to symbolically project normalcy and stability in Kashmir," and is unlikely to herald a change in policy.

"The meeting is good and it could boost tourism," said college student Mufeed Hilal. "But we also want to see the Kashmir issue resolved. That is our basic problem."

### REGIONAL NEIGHBORS AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT CRITICIZE KASHMIR MEETING

Pakistan, which controls a part of Kashmir but, like India, claims the entire territory, has slammed New Delhi for holding the meeting in Srinagar.

Speaking on the sidelines of a recent Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting in India, foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said the choice of location showed India's "pettiness" and was a "show of arrogance to the world."

India's foreign minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, dismissed the Pakistani minister's comments, saying that he was not going to debate the issue "with a country which has nothing to do with the G20," referring to the fact that Pakistan is not a member of the group.

The G20, made up of the world's largest economies, has a rolling presidency with a different member state in charge of the group's agenda and priorities each year. India is steering the group in 2023.

China also criticized India's plan to hold the meeting in Srinagar.

"China firmly opposes holding any form of G20 meeting in disputed areas and China will not attend such a meeting," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters at a daily briefing Friday.

Last month, China skipped another G20 meeting held in the disputed region Ladakh, where Indian and Chinese soldiers are locked in a bitter military standoff high in the mountains after 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers were killed in a hand-to-hand melee in 2020.

A U.N. human rights expert on Monday said the meeting would support a "facade of normalcy" while "massive human rights violations" continue in the region.

"The government of India is seeking to normalise what some have described as a military occupation by instrumentalising a G20 meeting and portray an international seal of approval," said Fernand de Varennes, the special rapporteur on minority issues, in a statement.

Baluchistan, some 1,360 kilometers (850 miles) southeast of the capital Tehran. The report said the militants fled the area with casualties, but did not elaborate. State TV originally reported that six guards were killed but later said there were five fatalities. Two border guards were also wounded in the clash. It did not blame the attack on any group and no group immediately claimed responsibility. There were no additional details.

### Helicopter crash kills 2 crewmembers during patrol in north

**ISLAMABAD (AP)**—An Afghan military helicopter crashed in the country's north Sunday after hitting a power line base, killing at least two crewmembers, the Defense Ministry said. The MD-530 chopper was patrolling in the area after it took off from northern Balkh province and crashed in the Kholim district in Samangan province, a ministry statement said. Officials said the chopper hit the base of a high voltage power line before crashing. It's unclear how many helicopters, including U.S. choppers, are in the hands of the Taliban-run government. As the U.S.-backed Afghan government collapsed in mid-August 2021, dozens of Afghan pilots fled to Central Asian countries, including Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

# World

## Zelenskyy denies Bakhmut occupied by Russian forces

**HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP)**—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that Russian forces weren't occupying Bakhmut, casting doubt on Moscow's insistence that the eastern Ukrainian city had fallen.

Responding to a reporter's question about the status of the city at the Group of Seven summit in Japan, Zelenskyy said: "Bakhmut is not occupied by the Russian Federation as of today."

"We are not throwing people (away) to die," Zelenskyy said in Ukrainian through an interpreter. "People are the treasure. I clearly understand what is happening in Bakhmut. I cannot share with you the technical details of what is happening with our warriors."

"The fight for the city of Bakhmut is continuing," the Ukrainian military's general staff said in a statement on Sunday evening.

Oleksandr Syrskiy, a spokesman for the military's eastern command, said Ukrainian forces control the outskirts of the city, and "defense forces continue offensive actions on the flanks near Bakhmut."

The fog of war made it impossible to confirm the situation on the ground



In this grab taken from video released by Prigozhin Press Service on Saturday, May 20, 2023, Yevgeny Prigozhin, the owner of the Wagner Group military company shakes hands with his soldiers, in Bakhmut, Ukraine.

in the invasion's longest battle, and a series of comments from Ukrainian and Russian officials added confusion to the matter.

Zelenskyy's response in English to a question earlier at the summit about the status of Bakhmut suggested that he believed the city had fallen to Russian forces, and he offered solemn words about its fate.

When asked if the city was in Ukraine's hands, Zelenskyy said: "I think no, but you have to—to understand that there is nothing. They've destroyed everything. There are no buildings. It's a pity. It's tragedy."

"But, for today, Bakhmut is only in our hearts. There is nothing on this place, so—

just ground and—and a lot of dead Russians," he said.

Zelenskyy's press secretary later walked back those previous comments.

Ukrainian defense and military officials said that fierce fighting was ongoing. Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar even went so far as to say that Ukrainian troops "took the city in a semi-encirclement."

"The enemy failed to surround Bakhmut, and they lost part of the dominant heights around the city," Malyar said. "That is, the advance of our troops in the suburbs along the flanks, which is still ongoing, greatly complicates the enemy's presence in Bakhmut."

## Conservative party of Greek PM in big election lead

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)**—Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, whose conservative party scored a landslide election victory Sunday but without the seats in Parliament to win outright, indicated he will seek a second election in a bid to consolidate victory without a coalition partner.

Mitsotakis' New Democracy party was a full 20 percentage points ahead of its main rival, the left-wing Syriza party, nearly complete results showed. But a new electoral system of proportional representation meant his 40% vote share still was not enough to secure a majority of the 300 seats in Parliament. To form a government, he would either have to seek a coalition partner from a smaller party, or head to a second election.

The prime minister said he would "follow all constitutional procedures" but maintained his view that the current electoral system that created the

need for coalition was akin to "party horse-trading."

"Without a doubt, the political earthquake that occurred today calls on us all to speed up the process for a definitive government solution so our country can have an experienced hand at its helm as soon as possible."

Jubilant New Democracy supporters massed outside party headquarters in Athens, cheering and waving party flags.

A second election, likely to be held in late June or early July, would be conducted under a new electoral law that gives bonus seats to the winning party, making it easier for it to form a government on its own.

Sunday's election was Greece's first since its economy ceased being under strict supervision by international lenders who had provided bailout funds during the country's nearly decadelong financial crisis.

Syriza head Alexis Tsipras, 48, served as prime minister during some of the most tumultuous years of the crisis, and has struggled to regain the wide support he enjoyed when he was swept to power in 2015 on a promise of reversing bailout-imposed austerity measures.

He called Mitsotakis on Sunday night to congratulate him on his victory.

"The result is exceptionally negative for Syriza," Tsipras said in initial statements after his party's dramatic defeat became clear. "Fights have winners and losers."

Tsipras said his party would gather to examine the results and how they came about. "However, the electoral cycle is not yet over," he said. "We don't have the luxury of time. We must immediately carry out all the changes that are needed so we can fight the next crucial and final electoral battle with the best terms possible."

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Fire destroys nearly 100-year-old PH neoclassical landmark

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A massive fire tore through Manila's historic post office building overnight, slightly injuring one person and razing the nearly 100-year-old landmark in the Philippine capital, police and postal officials said Monday. The fire started before midnight in the basement of the neoclassical, five-story building and was brought under control Monday morning more than seven hours after it began, firefighters said. An investigation was underway to determine the cause of the fire and what was damaged, officials said. The Manila Central Post Office was one of the capital's busiest office buildings but was closed when the fire started. The building was the country's main mail-sorting and distribution hub and was the central office for the Philippine Postal Corporation.

#### Armed group kills 5 Iranian border guards in clash near Pakistani border

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)**—Five Iranian border guards were killed in a clash with an unknown armed group trying to enter the country near the Pakistani border, state TV reported Sunday. The fighting happened in the town of Saravan in the southeastern province of Sistan and





IN LOVING MEMORY OF

# *Maria Muna Indalecio*

May 30, 1940 - May 15, 2023  
Called to Eternal Life on May 15, 2023

In her new life, she will be greeted and reunited with her:

**Mother:** †Carmen Guillis Muna (Naidita)  
**Father:** †Jose Cabrera Muna  
**Spouse:** †Herman Taimanao Indalecio  
**Son:** †Martin Muna Indalecio  
**Grandson:** †Martin DLG. Indalecio  
†Christopher Ray Indalecio  
**Brothers:** †Vicente Guillis Muna  
†Bonifacio Guillis Muna  
†Juan Guillis Muna  
**Sisters:** †Remedio Guillis Muna  
†Juanita Guillis Muna Charfauros  
**In-laws:** †Albert Palacios Indalecio  
†Magdalena Taimanao Indalecio

She will forever be remembered in the hearts of her:

**Children:** Diana I. / Brian Clayton  
Fabian M. / Cheryl Indalecio and Children  
†Martin M. Indalecio and Children  
Cynthia I. / Chris Brown and Children  
Arnold M. / Antonia B. Indalecio and Children  
Herman M. Indalecio, Jr.  
Norman Anthony M. Indalecio and Children  
Bertha I. / James Ada and Children  
Ramona I. / Ruben Corpuz and Children  
Georgia Ann I. / Jose Duenas and Children  
Raymond M. / Joanne DLG. Castro and Children  
**Kinship Family:** Julita I. Shamim

**Brothers:** †Vicente Guillis / Francisca B. Muna and Family  
†Bonifacio Guillis Muna and Family  
†Juan Guillis / Myrna R. Muna and Family

**Sisters:** †Remedio G. Muna  
Bernadita M. / †David O. Sablan and Family  
Susana G. Muna and Family  
Ignacia M. / Pedro Sablan and Family  
Jacinta B. / †Larry T. Lacy and Family  
Alfonsina Guillis Muna and Family  
†Juanita M. / Richard Charfauros and Family

**Brothers and Sisters In-Laws:**

†Henry T. / †Ana S. Indalecio and Family  
Rita I. / †Francisco A. Reyes (Candido) and Family  
Rosa I. / Jose A. Ichihara and Family  
Luis T. / Kitt Indalecio and Family  
Raymond I. / Melanie Ichihara and Family

†**Maria** will also be missed by her numerous friends and relatives.

On Thursday, May 25, 2023, our beloved †**Maria** will be escorted from CHCC Morgue to Borja Funeral Homes for funeral service and public viewing, which will begin from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. Burial will follow immediately at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid at her final resting place.

Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated.

**Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Ghillisow.**

*The Children of †Maria Muna Indalecio and Family*



# Overdrive

By LARRY PRINTZ  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

There were once two Swedish automakers, and they were very different. One was Volvo, the other Saab. And while they had their differences and their adherents, the biggest distinction between the two was the fact that Volvos were rear-wheel drive while Saabs were front-wheel drive.

In fact, a Saab brochure from the early 1980s extolled the advantages of front-wheel drive, while saying their cars could tow lesser ones with rear-wheel drive when they got stuck. It pictured a Volvo.

Perhaps that's why Volvo executives were laughing over their smoked herring when Saab crashed and burned in 2011, a victim of GM mismanagement. By then, Volvos had long been front-wheel drive. In fact, Volvo's first front-wheel drive vehicle hit the U.S. in 1992, nearly a decade after the first one appeared in Europe.

Volvo aficionados can't be blamed for missing their rear-wheel drive cars, and now it seems as if their long wait is over. For 2024, Volvo is introducing a single-motor model of their XC40 and C40 battery electric crossovers, available in escalating Core, Plus and Ultimate trim levels. And as is typical for such models, the solitary 185-kW permanent magnet electric motor is placed on the rear axle, meaning they're rear-wheel drive. It draws its power from a 79-kWh battery pack, which provides 297 miles of range.



The Volvo C40 Recharge, Fjord Blue.

VOLVO/TNS

That's more than the Audi Q4 e-tron and the Genesis GV60. With a top DC Fast Charging rate of 200 kW, refilling the battery to 80% from 10% takes about 28 minutes.

The main differences between the XC40 and C40 are matters of styling, with the C40 having a bit less cargo capacity. But its fastback silhouette lends it a sportier air—or so automotive executives would have you believe. Certainly, its quirky shape is something that former Saab owners might enjoy. And for the 2024 model year, the C40 gets a fresh pair of shoes in the form of new 19-inch alloy wheels that Volvo says enhances aerody-

namic efficiency.

The C40's stylishly sleek shape extracts a price—but one must always pay more for fashion. The C40 doesn't hold as much cargo as the XC40, but it can carry just as much as its boxy brother below the cargo cover.

When it comes to carrying people, the interior of the C40 is like the XC40, possessing the same sleekly modern cabin common to all current Volvos. A large vertical display in the center of the instrument panel controls the car's functions, and it seems easier to use than the one on pricier models, if only because there aren't as many screens. The Android-

based software integrates Google and Google Maps.

While fiddling with the screen, you'll find the Volvo's thrones to be supportive yet comfortable despite their firmness. As with many electric vehicles, the interior is spacious considering its compact size. Odds are, the interior will not have leather but rather some sort of man-made imitation, as Volvo is slowly culling it from their lineup, although leather seats are still offered in some trims. Overall ambience is far nicer than the decorating of the first XC40 interior, which shares its cabin with the C40. It's far more sophisticated now, and a quiet place to spend some


time—quieter than you might expect from a car.

The silence comes from the C40's electric motor, which adds a vibration-free electric driveline that's incredibly refined. Given that a gasoline engine is nothing more than a controlled explosion, it's little wonder that an electric motor will provide lots of instant torque, much like a light switch. It's also about as noisy and vibratory, thus the feeling of refinement. Speed comes on quickly, and while the C40 feels fast and frisky, it isn't as sharp as some of its competitors. Its balanced approach is very much a Volvo driving trait.

What you get in return

is comfort, of course, without the punishing harshness of many sporty crossovers. Bumps are well absorbed, but some pavement can elicit a firm response. Body lean is predictable but not excessive. Still, it provides more than enough juice to keep the daily drive drudge-free. Call it well-balanced, with a bit of comfort and sport, like a great GT.

Of course, it doesn't look like a GT, and that's a good thing. But its shape is influenced by it. Just think of how easy it will be to find in the parking lot. It makes for a compelling statement in the EV market, one that's distinctly Volvo. And the option of rear-wheel drive is a welcome return to form.

 **NUTS & BOLTS**

- **Base price:** Not available
- **Powertrain:** 185 kW permanent magnet electric motor
- **Horsepower/Torque:** 248/310 pound-feet
- **EPA range:** 297 miles
- **Length/Width/Height:** 174.8/73.7/ 62.6 inches
- **Ground clearance:** 7 inches
- **Wading depth:** 17.7 inches
- **Cargo capacity:** 18 cubic feet
- **Towing capacity:** Not available

■ (Larry Printz is an automotive journalist based in South Florida. Readers may send him email at [TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com](mailto:TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com).)

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## Do I need to wax my new car?

**Q** : I just bought a new car and plan to keep it for a long time. How often should I be applying wax to my car? Someone told me with the new paint finishes, wax applications are a thing of the past. True?

**M.J., Western Springs, Illinois**

**A:** Modern finishes are magical and look good for a long time. But wax still has benefits. It seals the clear coat protecting the paint. Bird droppings and honeydew (actually insect poop) may eventually damage the clear coat. Wax makes it easier to remove those contaminants. Modern waxes are almost magical, too. They are easy to apply and last a long time. I wax my vehicles every spring and fall, but I live in rural Virginia and keep the nice car in the garage. But if you park on the street or live where winters are harsh or industrial fallout is likely, quarterly might be better.

■■■

**Q:** This is just a thank you. Before my husband (a real car nut) died, I hadn't, in over 40 years, had to worry about car maintenance. The first time I bought a car on my own, I was 77; needless to say, I was rather proud of that. I continue to learn about cars and maintenance from your columns and greatly appreciate them.

**C.H., Chicago**

**A:** Thank you reading the column and for the kind words. I have a hunch you may already know the answer to the reader's question below.

■■■

**Q:** I have a 2004 BMW Z4 with 2.5-liter engine with a mileage of 23,500. I barely use it. I am planning to have the



Bob Weber recommends waxing your car twice a year. If you park on the street or live where winters are harsh or industrial fallout is likely, quarterly might be better.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

oil and filter changed as soon as possible. The brake fluid was flushed in 2021. My questions are, does the car need a transmission flush, coolant flush and steering fluid flush?

**M.R., North Las Vegas, Nevada**

**A:** I get this question more often than any other. Maybe it is from first-time readers or people who missed the column because they were collecting shells on a remote beach or had no internet service. So with apologies to my regular readers, here we go again: Turn to your owner's manual. Then turn to the section on maintenance. There you will discover answers. Some flushes, such as coolant, are required. As for others, some wags call them wallet flushes.

■■■

**Q:** About six months ago, the navigation system in my

## MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER  
Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to [motormouth.tribune@gmail.com](mailto:motormouth.tribune@gmail.com).

**2016 Acura MDX left me in central Indiana! I took it to my dealer and they said my navigation system has failed and it will cost \$1,900 to replace. Geez! My car just hit 100,000 miles. Any suggestions?**

**M.S., Downers Grove, Illinois**

**A:** Do you have a smart phone? In many cars, including yours, you can link the phone to the infotainment system via Bluetooth. Try Waze or Google Maps for navigation. If you prefer something more permanent, check out nav devices like Garmin.

■■■

**Q:** We have friends who live in Montana. Last time we were there, I noticed that the wife shifted gears while driving downhill in the mountains. I say it doesn't make a difference and to just use the brakes. I need an outside opinion.

**R.B., Chicago**

**A:** I downshift for long descents. There is less wear to the brakes and avoids overheating them. Some cars use this technique while cruise control is activated. During engine braking fuel economy also goes up.



# Life & Style

## 'Fast X' speeds to No. 1; knocks 'Guardians 3' to 2nd

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP FILM WRITER

The 10th installment of the "Fast and Furious" franchise was off to the races this weekend, knocking "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" out of first place and easily claiming the No. 1 spot at the box office. "Fast X" earned \$67.5 mil-

lion in ticket sales from 4,046 North American theaters, according to estimates from Universal Pictures on Sunday.

It's on the lower end of openings for the series which peaked with "Furious 7's" \$142.2 million launch, the sole movie in the series to surpass \$100 million out of the gates. "Fast X's" domestic de-

but only ranks above the first three. The last movie, "F9," opened to \$70 million in 2021.

But this is also a series that has usually made the bulk of its money internationally, often over 70%. True to form, overseas it's on turbo drive. "Fast X" opened in 84 markets internationally, playing in over 24,000 theaters, where it earned an estimated \$251.4 million. The top market was China with \$78.3 million, followed by Mexico with \$16.7 million. And it adds up to a \$319 million global debut — the third biggest of the franchise.

"It's a global franchise with a very broad audience," said Jim Orr, Universal's head of domestic distribution. "The themes resonate across the world."

Directed by Louis Leterrier

(who took over from Justin Lin during production), "Fast X" brings back the familiar crew including Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson and Jordana Brewster and adds several newcomers, like Brie Larson, Rita Moreno and a villain played by Jason Momoa. The ever-expanding cast also includes Jason Statham, Charlize Theron, Scott Eastwood and Helen Mirren.

Reports say the movie cost \$340 million to produce, not including marketing.

Reviews were mixed for "Fast X," the beginning of the end for the \$6 billion franchise, which currently has a 54% on Rotten Tomatoes. AP's Mark Kennedy wrote in his review that, "It has become almost camp, as if it breathed in too much of its own fumes" and

that it's also "monstrously silly and stupidly entertaining."

According to exit polls audiences were 29% Caucasian, 29% Hispanic and 21% Black, and 58% were between the ages of 18 and 34. They gave the film a B+ CinemaScore.

In its third weekend, Disney and Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" made an estimated \$32 million in North America to take second place. It's now made \$266.5 million domestically and \$659.1 million globally.

Third place went to another Universal juggernaut, "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," which is now in its seventh weekend and available to rent on VOD. Nevertheless, it earned an additional \$9.8 million in North America, bringing its domestic total to

\$549.3 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Fast X," \$67.5 million.
2. "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3," \$32 million.
3. "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," \$9.8 million.
4. "Book Club: The Next Chapter," \$3 million.
5. "Evil Dead Rise," \$2.4 million.
6. "John Wick: Chapter 4," \$1.3 million.
7. "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret," \$1.3 million.
8. "Hypnotic," \$825,000.
9. "MET Opera: Don Giovanni," \$701,025.
10. "BlackBerry," \$525,000.

## Salman Rushdie honored at PEN America gala In his 1st in-person appearance since stabbing

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Salman Rushdie made an emotional and unexpected return to public life Thursday night, attending the annual gala of PEN America and giving the event's final speech as he accepted a special prize, the PEN Centenary Courage Award, just nine months being after being stabbed repeatedly and hospitalized.

"It's nice to be back—as opposed to not being back, which was also a possibility. I'm glad the dice rolled this way," Rushdie, 75, told hundreds gathered at the American Museum of Natural History, where he received a standing ovation.

It was his first in-person appearance at a public event since he was attacked last August while on stage at a literary festival in Western New York.

Rushdie, whose attendance had not been announced beforehand, spoke briefly, and dedicated some of his remarks to those who came to his help at the Chautauqua Institution, a nonprofit education and retreat center. He cited a fel-

low attendee, Henry Reese of the City of Asylum project in Pittsburgh, for tackling the assailant and thanked audience members who also stepped in.

"I accept this award, therefore, on behalf of all those who came to my rescue. I was the target that day, but they were the heroes. The courage, that day, was all theirs, and I thank them for saving my life," he said.

"And I have one last thing to add. It's this: Terror must not terrorize us. Violence must not deter us. La lutte continue. La lotta continua. The struggle goes on."

Attacks against Rushdie have been feared since the late 1980s and the publication of his novel "The Satanic Verses," which Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini condemned as blasphemous for passages referring to the Prophet Mohammad. The Ayatollah issued a decree calling for Rushdie's death, forcing the author into hiding, although he had been traveling freely for years before the stabbing.

## Adidas to start selling stockpile of Yeezy sneakers later this month

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Adidas said Friday that it will begin selling its more than \$1 billion worth of leftover Yeezy sneakers later this month, with the proceeds to be donated to various anti-racism groups.

The German sportswear brand said recipients will include the Anti-Defamation League, which fights antisemitism and other forms of discrimination, and the Philonise & Keeta Floyd Institute for Social Change, run by social justice advocate Philonise Floyd, the brother of George Floyd.

"After careful consideration, we have decided to begin releasing some of the remaining Adidas Yeezy products," said Adidas CEO Bjorn



A sign advertises Yeezy shoes made by Adidas at Kickclusive, a sneaker resale store, in Paramus, N.J., on Oct. 25, 2022. AP

Gulden in a statement. "Selling and donating was the preferred option among all organizations and stakeholders we spoke to. There is no place in

sport or society for hate of any kind and we remain committed to fighting against it."

Yeezy products have been unavailable to shoppers since

Adidas terminated its partnership with Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, in October 2022 following his antisemitic comments on social media and in interviews.

The items to be sold include existing designs as well as designs that were in the works in 2022 for sale this year, Adidas said.

At Adidas' annual shareholders meeting earlier this month, Gulden said the company had spent months trying to find solutions before deciding against destroying the items and to rather sell them to benefit various charities that were harmed by what Ye said.

The company said Friday that the move has no immediate impact on the company's current financial guidance for 2023.

## Fiance's kisses make woman physically ill

**DEAR ABBY:** I struggled for years with vomiting and nausea, as well as other digestive issues I dismissed as having a "sensitive stomach." When my fiance, "Marc," and I started dating, he urged me to find out the cause of my issues. Six months ago, I was diagnosed with celiac disease, an autoimmune disorder that is managed through a gluten-free diet.

Marc has been incredibly supportive, and our kitchen is mostly gluten-free. I can get fairly sick, so we are pretty careful. There's just one issue: I can get cross-contaminated if he kisses me after eating gluten, and he does eat gluten quite often. It can be resolved if he brushes his teeth thoroughly, but he brushes his teeth only every two or three days.

Marc is a grown man, and while we've discussed it briefly from a health standpoint, I don't want to be responsible for managing his oral hygiene. That needs to be his responsibility. I don't know where to draw the line, though, without being controlling. Is it reasonable to expect my fiance to brush his teeth after eating gluten? Or every morning and evening? Or must I just accept that I won't be able to kiss him except on rare occasions?

BAD KISS IN KANSAS

**DEAR BAD KISS:** If kissing your fiance causes you to have episodes of nausea and vomiting (as well as other digestive issues), out of respect for your welfare, your fiance should be willing, if not eager, to modify his snacking hab-

**its. Insisting that he do what dental health professionals have urged as far back as I can remember is not "controlling"—it is protecting your health and his. SPEAK UP!**

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My cousin is refusing to allow me to see my aunt ("Betty"). After a horrible 2020, during which my cousin lost her husband to cancer and the lockdown occurred that kept most people isolated, my cousin still guards her mom beyond reason. I have asked repeatedly if we could meet in person at an outside location and offered to wear a mask, but she refuses.

My cousin said in a text that she's in charge of her mom's schedule. Her reasons when we speak are the loss of her husband, grief and fear. My aunt is visited often by her grandkids, who live regular lives exposed to the many elements out there, and my cousin works in an industry where she's exposed to many people.

My aunt is in her late 80s, and I'm afraid the next time I see her will be in her casket. After losing several people close to me these past few years, it is obvious to me that life is short and we have no idea when our time will end. When my father died, Aunt Betty and her husband were very kind to me. I have always adored her.

It makes me sad and sometimes angry that my cousin is doing this. I think she's being selfish. Should I say anything to her or just let it be?

MISSING MY AUNT OUT WEST

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR MISSING:** By all means, have that conversation with your cousin. Because she has a career that exposes her to strangers who could transmit a contagious disease, and she allows the grandkids to visit, her reasons for not allowing you to see your aunt make no sense.

What does make sense is that she may have other reasons for preventing you from being involved with her mother. What they may be, only she can answer.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



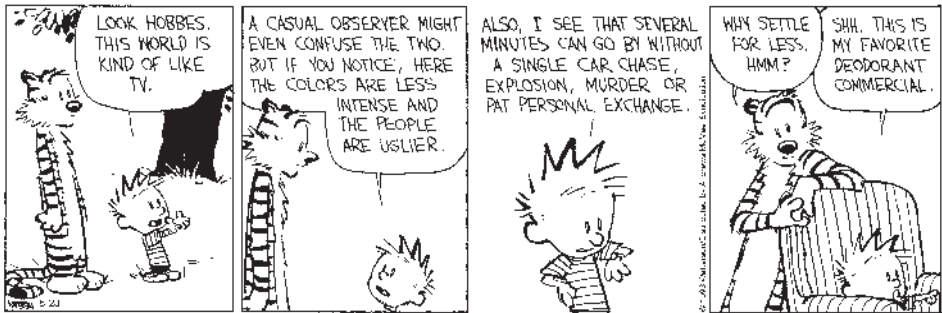
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

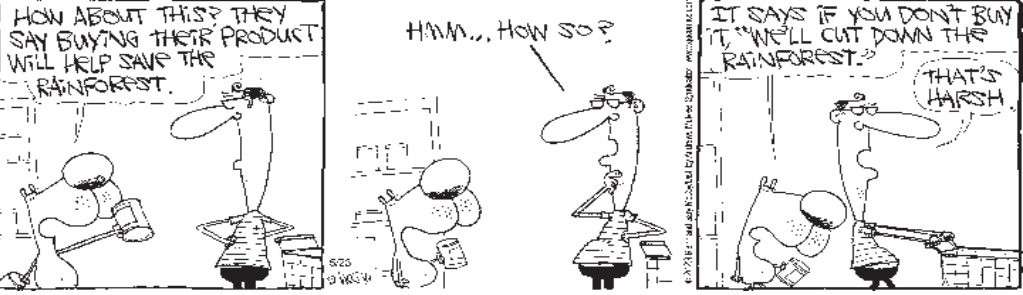
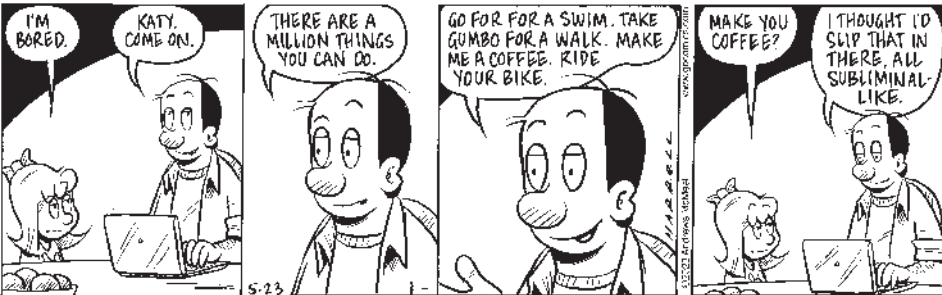


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Bivouac  
5 High-five sound  
9 Come-dian  
12 Regarding  
13 Saab model  
14 Pool unit  
15 Scotch and Drambuie drink  
17 Coach Par-seghian  
18 Totals  
19 Painter's stand  
21 London-ers, e.g.  
24 Burden  
25 Carson's successor  
26 Sure to succeed  
30 Hanoi holiday  
31 Sleep problem  
32 -Magnon  
33 Fail to appear in court, say

**DOWN**

1 Lot sight  
2 Tempe sch.  
3 Peaks (Abbr.)  
4 Spud  
5 Hour-glass fill  
6 Meadows  
7 "Entou-rage" role  
8 Italian cornmeal recipe  
9 Admirable people  
10 Fast runner  
11 Lustrous gem  
16 Fabric amts.  
20 "Wieder-sehen"  
21 Diner orders  
22 Stink  
23 Closest friends  
24 Scott Turw book  
26 IRS employees  
27 Black-bird  
28 Nest egg choices  
29 Misplace  
31 Deep ravines  
34 Bit of butter  
35 Door-way  
37 Trench  
38 Spiced tea  
39 Lester of NBC News  
40 Tower city  
41 Bohemian  
44 Regal letters  
45 Super serve  
46 Here, in Dijon  
47 USN officers

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 5-23

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kelly Monaco, 47; Jewel, 49; Drew Carey, 65; Joan Collins, 90.

**Happy Birthday:** Look at what's possible and discard ideas that will slow you down. Educate yourself to support your long-term goals, and turn this into a year of progress and determination with an outcome that makes you proud. Distance yourself from those trying to get you to do things that help them more than you. Put yourself first and your energy into fulfilling your dreams. Your numbers are 8, 15, 24, 30, 34, 41, 43.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Be aware of what happens at home. Discuss your concerns and figure out how to resolve domestic issues that disrupt your life. Make it clear where you stand, what you want to do and how you intend to help others. \*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** It's time for a change. Don't wait for things to fix themselves when it's up to you to initiate what makes you feel good about your future. Nurture meaningful relationships and make it known what and who you want in your life. Romance is favored. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Travel, education and communication will help lead you to your destination of choice. Stop analyzing and start doing what matters most to you. A change in how you handle money or present yourself to the world will have a positive impact on your life. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Helping others will help you put your life in perspective. Reach out, and you'll discover

suggestions and remedies you can apply to yourself and others. Learn as you go and practice what you learn. Love is on the rise. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Show interest in what others do, but do things your way when it comes to how and what you contribute. Being true to yourself will satisfy your ego and ensure you stay in control of the outcome. Maintain integrity and remain within budget. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** A change of plans will lead to valuable information. You can help others by using what you learn and incorporating it into your daily routine. A meaningful partnership will encourage you to explore possibilities. Don't expand too quickly. Time is on your side. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Keep your feelings and intentions to yourself. An open mind will help you recruit new ideas that encourage positive changes and a home environment that allows you to expand your ideas. Don't let emotions stifle your dreams. \*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Positive change is up to you. Evaluate your situation and what will make you happy. The changes you implement will help you structure an environment that energizes your creative spirit and points you in a better direction. Romance and travel are favored. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Put more thought into improving your medical, financial or contractual issues, and you'll find a way to eliminate what is no longer a benefit. Condensing debt will ease stress. Compete with yourself, not others. \*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Get busy eliminating your to-do list. Free up time to do something with someone you love later in the day. Home improvements will make your downtime more enjoyable and change the dynamics between you and those closest to you. Romance is favored. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Think twice before you listen to or follow someone. Choose to do what suits you best. Focus on home, health and happiness, and take the road that intrigues you the most. Don't let anyone coerce you into doing something that doesn't interest you. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Accentuate what you know and do best, and you'll be happy with the results. Consider how you can use your skills uniquely to bring in additional cash. Updating your image will boost your confidence and encourage romance. \*\*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are affectionate, intuitive and generous. You are playful and flexible.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
|   |   | 9 |   | 7 | 4 |   | 1 |   |  |  |  |
|   |   | 8 | 1 | 9 |   | 4 |   |   |  |  |  |
|   |   | 1 |   | 6 |   | 9 | 3 |   |  |  |  |
| 3 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   | 7 | 6 |  |  |  |
|   |   | 6 | 5 |   |   |   | 4 |   |  |  |  |
|   |   |   | 7 |   |   |   | 5 |   |  |  |  |
|   | 8 |   | 9 | 5 | 7 | 2 |   | 4 |  |  |  |
|   | 4 | 7 |   | 2 |   | 5 |   |   |  |  |  |
| 2 |   | 5 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 |   |   |  |  |  |

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 5 |
| 8 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 5 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 1 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 7 |

Difficulty: ★★ 5/23  
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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FICTIONAL GHOSTS

Solution: 8 letters

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | C | C | A | S | P | E | R | U | T | U | F | D | H | C |
| H | A | H | M | A | G | I | C | I | A | N | N | T | P | H |
| E | C | R | R | N | G | S | P | I | R | I | T | S | H | A |
| M | D | A | A | I | A | E | Y | M | K | U | B | A | A | R |
| U | E | R | O | N | S | F | N | A | N | T | R | P | N | A |
| T | T | P | P | R | O | T | A | G | O | N | I | S | T | C |
| S | A | S | L | O | P | E | R | M | A | I | D | N | O | T |
| O | M | C | G | E | E | P | M | A | P | R | I | D | E | M |
| C | I | R | O | K | A | U | A | A | S | P | O | W | E | R |
| A | N | E | O | C | F | S | C | P | L | © | © | © | F | N |
| R | A | D | A | A | M | A | I | P | E | A | R | L | I |   |
| T | V | M | S | J | A | N | Y | N | N | U | F | C | O | G |
| O | E | A | Y | N | N | A | D | K | T | E | L | M | A | H |
| O | R | G | S | P | O | O | K | Y | L | L | O | M | T | T |
| N | E | E | W | O | L | L | A | H | R | E | M | I | L | S |

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Animated, Approach, Boo, Bride, Candy, Cartoon, Casper, Character, Christmas, Costume, Crowe, Danny, Float, Funny, Future, Gengar, Good, Goofy, Halloween, Hamlet, Image, Jack, Kind, Magician, McGee, Molly, Mufasa, Nights, Pac-Man, Paranormal, Past, Pearl, Phantom, Pinky, Pleasant, Power, Protagonist, Revan, Scream, Slimer, Spirits, Spooky, Strange  
Yesterday's Answer: Frontal  
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Heat roll past Celtics 128-102, take 3-0 lead in ECF



**MIAMI (AP)**—Erik Spoelstra had his team fully expecting that Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals would be extremely difficult, that the Miami Heat were going to have to take the best shot that a desperate bunch of Boston Celtics could muster.

He was wrong.

It was a Heat romp—and a team that had to pull off a frantic rally just to make the playoffs is now one win from the NBA Finals.

Gabe Vincent scored a career-high 29 points, Duncan Robinson added 22 and the eighth-seeded Heat rolled past the Celtics 128-102 on Sunday night. Miami leads the series 3-0, with a chance to finish off a stunning sweep on Tuesday night at home in Game 4.

“That was a solid, mature, professional approach,” said Spoelstra, now on the brink of a sixth trip to the NBA Finals as Miami’s coach. “There’s a lot of pent-up stuff here and we’re getting closer, but we still have to finish this off.”

Caleb Martin scored 18, Jimmy Butler finished with 16, Bam Adebayo had 13 and Max Strus added 10 for Miami. Every team in NBA history that has won the first three games of a best-of-seven has ultimately prevailed; the Heat are 8-0 in that situation.

“The rim was as big as the ocean for everybody,” Adebayo said, after Miami shot 57%.

Jayson Tatum scored 14 and Jaylen Brown added 12 for the second-seeded Celtics, who won three times on Miami’s floor on the way to winning last season’s East finals—but



Miami Heat guard Gabe Vincent (2) drives to the basket during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals against the Boston Celtics, Sunday, May 21, 2023, in Miami.

simply never had a chance in this one and basically emptied the bench for the fourth quarter.

“I just didn’t have them ready to play,” said Boston coach Joe Mazzulla, who has been the subject of tons of criticism in this series—and will surely face more going into Tuesday. “Whatever it was, whether it was the starting lineup or an adjustment, I have to get them in a better place, ready to play. That’s on me.”

Grant Williams and Payton Pritchard each added 12 for

Boston.

“To their credit, they’re playing well above their means,” Brown said. “They’re ballin’ right now and I’ve got to give them respect. Gabe Vincent, Martin, Strus, Duncan Robinson, guys that we should be able to keep under control are playing their (butt) off.”

The NBA Finals start June 1, and the way things are going, that might mean the league is about to go a few days without games. The Western Confer-

ence finals could end Monday; Denver leads that series against the Los Angeles Lakers 3-0. And now, the East finals could end Tuesday.

“It’s the first to four games,” Vincent said. “We’re not satisfied with three.”

There’s never been a season where both conference finals ended in sweeps; it happened in 1957 in the division finals immediately preceding the title series, when Boston beat Syracuse 3-0 and St. Louis beat Minneapolis 3-0.

Of all the 3-0 series leads in NBA history, this one might be the most unexpected—a No. 8 seed in the Heat, a team that struggled just to get into the playoffs, a team that was less than 3 minutes away from being eliminated in the play-in tournament, getting past top-seeded Milwaukee in five games, then fifth-seeded New York in six, and now on the brink of denying the Celtics a second consecutive East crown.

And the Heat let Boston know how much they were

enjoying this one.

Mindful that Boston’s Al Horford directed a timeout signal toward the Miami bench during Game 1 when the Celtics were on a second-quarter spurt to build a comfortable lead, Butler did the same to Horford as the Heat were running away in the third quarter of Game 3.

Besides, the Heat rallied to win Game 1 anyway. There was no rally required in Game 3 by the Heat. There was barely one attempted by the Celtics, for that matter.

“I don’t even know where to start,” Brown said. “It’s an obvious letdown. I feel like we let our fan base, organization down. We let ourselves down. And it was collective. We can point fingers, but in reality, it was just embarrassing.”

Boston got within 61-49 when Marcus Smart had a three-point play on the opening possession of the second half. The rest was all Miami, which immediately answered with a 28-7 run to open a 33-point lead at 89-56, which had the building rolling. The lead was so big, and there was so much time left, that the sellout crowd of 20,088 actually was subdued a bit by the time it was over.

They might have been yelled-out. Or maybe they were saving it for hockey on Monday night, when the Florida Panthers—another No. 8 seed on a magical playoff run in South Florida—will try to take a 3-0 lead in their East finals series against the Carolina Hurricanes.

“We’ll decompress tomorrow,” Spoelstra said, “but we’ll really get our minds right to finish this thing off.”

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)**—When the Denver Nuggets faced the most crucial stretch of the biggest road game in franchise history, Nikola Jokic took over both on the floor and in the huddle.

The two-time MVP decided he would run a two-man, pick-and-roll offense with Jamal Murray late in Game 3 of the Western Conference finals on Saturday night, and Jokic came through with a 15-point fourth quarter. He also commanded his teammates to buckle down on defense against the Lakers, and the Nuggets responded by taking over the game on both ends.

“Coach Jokic did a great job tonight,” Denver coach Michael Malone said with a smile.

When told of his new job title, Jokic grimaced.

“I don’t want to be a coach,” he said. “I think that’s the worst job on the planet, for sure.”

Jokic had simply done what was necessary—and that’s the story of Denver’s entire season.

Whenever a challenge aris-

## Win away from Finals, Nuggets credit teamwork for playoff dominance

es, whether it’s in the doldrums of a dominant regular season or in tough playoff matchups with the star-studded Suns and Lakers, Jokic and the Nuggets figure out a path around it, over it or through it to keep moving toward their goal.

That goal now is only five wins away, as Murray repeatedly pointed out after the Nuggets’ 119-108 victory in Game 3. With one more win over LeBron James and the reeling Lakers on Monday night, Denver can secure its first trip to the NBA Finals in the franchise’s 47 years in the league.

“We know next game is going to be another test,” Murray said. “They’re going to come out more aggressive. (Anthony Davis) is going to be more aggressive. LeBron is going to be more aggressive, so the crowd is going to be more into it.”

The Nuggets also can make another bit of history with a win in Game 4: Although this

franchise has won 15 playoff series, Denver has never swept an opponent.

It’s clear that this current version of the Nuggets is the best team in franchise history precisely because these players care only about team success. Denver has won five straight games while going 11-3 in the postseason, leaving no doubt about the identity of the NBA Finals favorite and the best team in a competitive conference.

While Jokic and Murray are stars, their supporting cast is the vital difference between the Nuggets and the NBA’s other star-based teams. Personal stats, playing time and egos simply don’t seem to matter to this group, according to its coaches and players.

“I mean, I never doubted my team,” Jokic said. “We have some really good players that can step up in the right moment, and that’s what we did.”

Just don’t tell the Nuggets

they’re the clear favorites to win it all: They still seem to be fueled by an underlying anger and an inferiority complex about their collective success, even after winning three Northwest Division titles and six playoff series (and counting) during five straight postseason appearances. Denver is the top seed in the West, yet seems to believe its success is a triumph over innumerable naysayers and stark odds.

“We’re the underdogs,” Denver’s Kentavious Caldwell-Pope claimed. “We don’t get enough credit for what we do.”

That passion sometimes comes out in surprising ways, even during this dominant playoff series. Malone, who complained in Denver about his perception of national media narratives, took time out from praising his team after Game 3 to take a shot at Davis and the NBA officials, claiming the Lakers big man constantly violates defensive rules

by “playing free safety, sitting in the paint for eight seconds at a time.”

Lakers coach Darvin Ham declined to counter Malone’s criticism of Davis’ defense Sunday, saying only: “I have a ton of respect for Mike, and his thoughts are his thoughts. His words are his words.”

Instead, Ham got back to work after two hours of sleep focused on the first step in Los Angeles’ formidable task. Los Angeles had a lengthy film session to address the mistakes that have kept the Nuggets in control of the series.

“We’ve got an opportunity, man,” Ham said. “Everybody is counting us out. It’s crazy. It’s no different than what we’ve been through all year. It’s the uphill battle, and trying to solidify ourselves and re-establish what this culture is all about with the Laker organization. I think we’ve done that, and we’ve got an opportunity to take another step in the right

direction come tomorrow.”

The Lakers are on the ropes after their first three consecutive losses since early February, and perhaps the only element of encouragement is the fact that all three games were close late. Los Angeles had golden opportunities to win twice in Denver, and the Lakers rallied from 14 points down to take the lead early in the fourth quarter of Game 3 before Jokic ran over them.

The Lakers’ first home loss in nearly two months has left them requiring an unprecedented comeback to keep their season alive: All 149 teams that previously fell into an 0-3 hole in the NBA playoffs lost the series.

“It ain’t over until it’s four games, and that’s the best part about it,” Lonnie Walker said. “Kings don’t look down when they’ve got crowns on their head. You don’t want that to fall. We’re not over with. We’re a whole bunch of kings over here. We’re ready to eat. We’re starving.”



# Ohtani strikes out 9, allows 2 hits in 6 innings, Angels top Twins, 4-2



**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)**—Any time that Shohei Ohtani is on the mound, the Los Angeles Angels are confident they can come out with a win.

Ohtani struck out nine in six innings and Mickey Moniak delivered his second big hit of the series with a two-run double in the seventh as the Angels defeated the Minnesota Twins 4-2 on Sunday.

Alex Kirilloff homered and Carlos Correa had an RBI double for the Twins, who dropped four of six on their Southern California road trip.

Ohtani did not get a decision despite allowing only one run and two hits. It was the fourth time in 10 starts this season the two-way superstar has had nine or more strikeouts.

"It was a really good one today," Angels manager Phil Nevin said. "He's got five wins and kept us in every game. He's given up some runs when we've taken the lead but he seems to have got us to the finish line with us having that lead. He knows when to dial it back for sure."

The Angels improved to 8-2 when Ohtani starts and took a three-game series for the first time since early May. Ohtani leads the majors with a .142 opponent batting average and is third in strikeouts with 80.

Ohtani threw 99 pitches against the Twins. Of his 62 strikes, 22 were whiffs, which tied his season high.

"Getting the swings and misses are huge and better than having them fouled off. So I'm making my pitches and that's a good sign," Ohtani said through an interpreter.

Moniak, who had a tying triple Friday night, delivered a two-run double in the seventh to give the Angels a 3-1 advantage. Pinch-hitter Matt Thaiss drew a leadoff walk to chase starter Pablo López (2-3) and Zach Neto followed with a double to right off Jorge López to set it up for Moniak.

## BREWERS 6, RAYS 4

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)**—Willy Adames, Rowdy Tellez and William Contreras homered as Milwaukee avoided a three-game sweep by beating the major league-leading Rays.

Tampa Bay (34-14) dropped to 21-4 at Tropicana Field, the second-best 25-game home record since 1901 behind the 1978 Boston Red Sox at 22-3.

Freddy Peralta (5-3) gave up three runs and five hits over six innings as the NL Central-leading Brewers (25-21) stopped a three-game skid. Devin Williams pitched 1 1/3 innings for his seventh save.

Josh Lowe had a three-run homer, three hits and four

RBIs for the Rays, whose 91 home runs lead the major leagues. Cooper Criswell (0-1) allowed five runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings.

## YANKEES 4, REDS 1

**CINCINNATI (AP)**—Harrison Bader and Gleyber Torres homered off Hunter Greene (0-4) as New York completed a three-game sweep for its first four-game winning streak this season.

Luis Severino returned from a strained lat muscle that had sidelined him since spring training and allowed one run and four hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Albert Abreu (2-1) got four straight outs and Clay Holmes earned his fifth save when Will Benson hit a game-ending comebacker with the bases loaded.

Yankees manager Aaron Boone was ejected in the first inning and Reds manager David Bell in the eighth.

## ASTROS 2, ATHLETICS 0

**HOUSTON (AP)**—Framber Valdez (4-4) pitched a four-hitter as Houston completed a three-game sweep that extended its winning streak to seven.

Oakland dropped to 10-38 and is on pace to finish 34-128, the most losses since the 1899 Cleveland Spiders went 20-134.

Valdez (4-4) struck out seven without a walk in his second career shutout and fifth complete game. The A's have been blanked three times in 10 games and seven overall.

Jose Altuve hit an RBI single off James Kaprielian (0-4) in the fifth inning of Altuve's third game back from a broken right thumb. Yordan Alvarez scored on a wild pitch.

## BRAVES 3, MARINERS 2

**ATLANTA (AP)**—Jared Shuster (1-2) allowed one hit in six innings, Jarred Kelenic's leadoff homer in the second, for his first big league win.

Atlanta took two of three from Seattle for its first series victory over the Mariners in 12 years. Travis d'Arnaud had two hits, including his first homer.

Jose Caballero hit his first big league homer, an eighth-inning liner off Nick Anderson.

Raisel Iglesias struck out two in a perfect ninth for his third save.

George Kirby (5-3) allowed three runs in seven innings.

## METS 5, GUARDIANS 4, GAME 1

## METS 2, GUARDIANS 1, GAME 2

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Justin Verlander outpitched Shane Bieber in a marquee matchup of Cy Young Award winners, and New York edged Cleveland for a doubleheader sweep.



Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Shohei Ohtani gestures toward teammates as he walks back to the dugout after the top of the second inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins Sunday, May 21, 2023, in Anaheim, Calif.

Francisco Lindor homered against his former team and Jeff McNeil knocked in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly off Bieber (2-2) in the eighth inning. Brooks Raley closed out New York's fifth consecutive comeback victory — all by one run — since a 6-16 slide.

In the opener, Starling Marte ended a long power drought by hitting a go-ahead homer in the eighth off Trevor Stephan (2-2) that sent the Mets to a 5-4 win. Max Scherzer pitched six shutout innings despite a callus on his right thumb.

The 40-year-old Verlander (2-2) gave up three hits and struck out five, becoming the first Mets pitcher to complete eight innings this season.

Raley needed only five pitches in the ninth to earn his 10th career save and first for the Mets, finishing an old-fashioned pitchers' duel that took just 2 hours, 6 minutes. The left-hander got José Ramírez to ground into a game-ending double play.

Ramírez homered off Verlander in the first after hitting a two-run shot in the eighth inning of Game 1 against David Robertson (2-0) to give the Guardians a 4-3 lead.

Bieber permitted seven hits in his fifth career complete game and first this season. He struck out four and threw 106 pitches.

After a rainout Saturday, Marte's first three-hit game of the season included a two-run shot for his first extra-base hit since April 14 in Oakland. His only other long ball this year came in the home opener April 7 against Miami.

## PHILLIES 2, CUBS 1

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—

Bryson Stott hit his first career pinch-hit homer, a two-run drive in the seventh off Albert Alzolay (1-3)

After extending their losing streak to five in the series opener, the defending NL champions won the final two games of the set. Taijuan Walker pitched 5 1/3 scoreless innings on three days' rest and Craig Kimbrel got his 399th save, moving within one of becoming the eighth pitcher with 400.

Matt Strahm (4-3) worked around a walk in the seventh.

Christopher Morel homered in the ninth, his eighth in 11 games since his call-up.

## DIAMONDBACKS 8, PIRATES 3

**PITTSBURGH (AP)**—Christian Walker had three RBIs, hitting a two-run double in a three-run seventh inning.

Arizona has won seven of nine, including the final two games of the series after losing the opener 13-3.

Pittsburgh committed three errors, threw five wild pitches and fell to 4-13 in May after a 20-9 start.

Merrill Kelly (5-3) gave up three runs and three hits in five innings. Dauri Moreta (1-1) was the loser.

## NATIONALS 6, TIGERS 4

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Riley Adams had a career-high four hits and finished a triple short of the cycle as Washington tied its season high with 18 hits.

Ildemaro Vargas hit his first home run since last Aug. 28 and Jeimer Candelario had four singles.

Josiah Gray (4-5) allowed one run and three hits over five innings but matched his career high with six walks. Hunter

Harvey pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his second save.

Joey Wentz (1-4) allowed six runs and a season-high 10 hits in two-plus innings.

Detroit failed to take advantage of eight walks and went 3 for 16 with runners in scoring position.

## WHITE SOX 5, ROYALS 2

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Luis Robert Jr. homered and Romy González went 3 for 3 with two RBIs as Chicago finished a three-game sweep, winning for the fifth time in six games.

Lance Lynn (3-5) allowed two runs and four hits over six innings in his second straight win, and Joe Kelly tossed a perfect ninth for his first save.

Michael Massey hit a two-run homer for Kansas City, which finished with four hits. The last-place Royals (14-34) have dropped seven of nine. Max Castillo (0-1) allowed five runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Promoted from Triple-A, Clint Frazier was 1 for 3 for the White Sox in his first big league game since last June 7.

## ORIOLES 8, BLUE JAYS 3, 11 INNINGS

**TORONTO (AP)**—Cedric Mullins had five hits and three RBIs and Austin Hays had a tiebreaking single off Yimi Garcia (1-2) in a five-run 11th inning as Baltimore completed a three-game sweep.

Hays reached base four times for the Orioles (31-16), who have won five of six.

Mullins' RBI single put the Orioles ahead 3-2 in the 10th, but Whit Merrifield hit a run-scoring single in the bottom half off Austin Voth. Mike Baumann (3-0) relieved and picked off Merrifield at first.

## CARDINALS 10, DODGERS 5

**ST. LOUIS (AP)**—Oscar Mercado tied his career high of five RBIs and had three hits. Paul DeJong hit a three-run homer for St. Louis, which has won 11 of 14 after a 10-24 start.

Los Angeles dropped three of four games in the series and lost its first set since dropping two of three to Pittsburgh from April 24-26.

Clayton Kershaw (6-4) allowed four runs and five hits over 3 2/3 innings.

Drew VerHagen (3-0) retired seven successive batters after relieving starter Jack Flaherty with two outs in the fourth.

## RANGERS 13, ROCKIES 3

**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)**—Corey Seager hit a two-run homer in a five-run second inning and an RBI double in a six-run fifth, helping Texas complete a three-game sweep.

Texas is 12 games over .500 for the first time since finishing 2016 at 95-67.

Josh Jung put Texas ahead in the second against Connor Seabold (1-1) with his ninth homer, a solo drive that tied the Dodgers' James Outman for the rookie lead.

Andrew Heaney (3-3) won for the first time in five starts since April 22, allowing one run — unearned — and six hits in six innings.

## GIANTS 7, MARLINS 5

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Patrick Bailey hit his first major league homer and drove in a run with a squeeze bunt, helping San Francisco win for the fifth time in six games.

Two days after making his major league debut, the 23-year-old catcher homered in the second off Jesús Lizaro (3-3) and knocked in a run with a bunt in a two-run sixth for a 6-4 lead.

J.D. Davis hit his team-leading eighth home run in the third, then doubled and scored the go-ahead run on Mitch Haniger's sixth-inning single.

Ryan Walker (1-0) worked around a pair of singles in a scoreless sixth to win in his major league debut. Camilo Doval got three outs for his 12th save.

## PADRES 7, RED SOX 0

**SAN DIEGO (AP)**—Rougned Odor hit a three-run double off struggling Corey Kluber (2-6) in the first inning, Matt Carpenter homered and San Diego stopped a four-game skid by winning for the third time in 14 games.

Odor finished with two doubles and four RBIs. Michael Wacha (5-1), who pitched for Boston last year, allowed five hits in six innings.



By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League playoffs have been

suspended indefinitely as Typhoon Mawar draws closer to the CNMI.

Commissioner Sonny Ebuén said due to the approaching typhoon they have no choice but to reschedule the games. The league is being played at the outdoor Civic Center Basketball Court.

Last Saturday, the masters division games between Ol'Aces and Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant and Blue Haus and

Double A Corp. were rained out. The first game between Ol'Aces and Pepoy's did start and was a quarter away from finishing when the clouds opened up.

The masters postseason got going last Friday with No. 1 seed A's Car Air Conditioning blasting No. 8 RNV Construction in the first game, 76-62, and No. 4 Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific exacting a 95-62 dismantling of JSN Enterprises in the second game.

The playoffs of the open division was supposed to start with the quarterfinals last night with top seed Martech-Ol'Aces taking on eighth seed K2 Ballerz in the

6pm first game.

It was to be followed by the match between fourth seed Ali'i and fifth seed The Game at 7:30pm.

The other quarterfinals matchups tonight were supposed to pit second seed New Changming Market against seventh seed JTM Saipan and third seed Puerto Rico Bento versus sixth seed Susan's Catering.

Ebuén said the remaining games of the masters division playoffs will resume after Typhoon Mawar leaves the CNMI's area of responsibility. Same goes with the start of the playoffs of the open division.



MARK RABAGO

Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant's Bryan Natividad uncorks a jumper against Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific's DeShawn Reign in their master division game in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

## Brooks Koepka delivers another major performance to win PGA



PITTSFORD, N.Y.

(AP)—Confidence was never an issue for Brooks Koepka until the injuries piled up, the doubts crept in and he began to wonder if he still belonged among golf's elite.

Koepka answered every question at the PGA Championship with a performance that ranks among his best. His fifth major title was the sweetest of them all. No doubt about that, either.

"It feels damned good. Yeah, this one is definitely special," Koepka said. "I think this one is probably the most meaningful of them all with everything that's gone on, all the crazy stuff over the last few years."

One knee injury kept him from the Masters, another from the Presidents Cup in Australia. Two years ago, he tried to pop his knee back into place and shattered his knee cap. And then last summer, uncertain about his



AP

Brooks Koepka celebrates with the Wanamaker trophy after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill Country Club on Sunday, May 21, 2023, in Pittsford, N.Y.

future, he decided to leave the PGA Tour for the guaranteed Saudi riches of LIV Golf, bringing a mixture of criticism and skepticism.

And there he was Sunday at Oak Hill, looking good as new, dominant as ever, against the best collection of golfers in the world on a punishing

golf course.

Koepka ran off three quick birdies early, never lost the lead amid a gritty fight from Viktor Hovland, and closed with a 3-under 67 for a two-shot victory.

He held up his index finger as he posed next to the Wanamaker Trophy, but he may as well

have held up all five.

With three PGAs and two U.S. Opens, he became the 20th player with five or more majors. He won his third Wanamaker Trophy—only Jack Nicklaus and Walter Hagen with five and Tiger Woods with four have won the PGA Championship more times—and captured his first major in what felt like four years.

And to think that over the last few years, Koepka was so wounded he felt he couldn't compete, a decision that might have led to him leaving the PGA Tour for Saudi-funded LIV Golf in a shocking move last June af-

ter the U.S. Open.

In the Netflix series "Full Swing" that began aired earlier this year, he was quoted as saying his confidence had given way to doubt. "I'm going to be honest with you, I can't compete with these guys week in and week out."

Give him good health and a clear head, and good luck taking down Koepka in the majors. He now has won five of his last 22 majors, a rate exceeded only by Woods, Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Nick Faldo and Ben Hogan in the last 75 years.

He is the first player from LIV Golf to win a major, and it hits

back at the notion that 54-hole events and guaranteed money would take the edge off the rival league's best players.

"I definitely think it helps LIV, but I'm more interested in my own self right now, to be honest with you," Koepka said. "Yeah, it's a huge thing for LIV, but at the same time I'm out here competing as an individual at the PGA Championship. I'm just happy to take this home for the third time."

Koepka is in pretty heady company just about everywhere he looks. His five majors are as many as Seve Ballesteros and Byron Nelson. Among active players, only Woods (15) and Phil Mickelson (6) have more.

## SAVE

From Page 20

lead in the last period.

Aggressive plays at the net caused multiple fouls which allowed Save More some free throws for their advantage.

John Mejarito, Save More's leading scorer with 14 points, made three crucial free throws toward the end of the last period, plus one more free throw and a field goal by Joseph Torres, was enough to pull away from Blue Haus and Save More won just by 7 points.

Team Marianas in the second game of the day played an even closer contest against the CK Saints.

Fouls made by the Saints in the last minutes of the last period proved to be their downfall as Team Marianas banked five consecutive game-deciding free throws—two each made by Lucio Aldan and Jack Aranda, and one made by

Greg Sablan.

Throughout the game, both teams were neck-and-neck, as both teams were never too far from each other's grasp.

Only in the first period did the Saints have the lead, 16-10, but by the end of the second the Saints were behind by 7.

However, in the third period the Saints' Lyshawn Reyes picked up the slack and scored 7 points, with an additional 6 points by Leo Galarse. Galarse then led the Saints in their push for a comeback in the last quarter and made 8 of the team's 19 points—for a game total of 21 points.

It wasn't enough though as their defense fell and created free shooting opportunities for Team Marianas to take the W.

In last Saturday's games, Martech-Ol'Aces won a close 64-61 game against Team Marianas and New Changming Market defeated Ali'i Blue Haus, 94-74; and in last

Friday's games, Save More won against Socho, 98-68, and CK Saints routed La Mesa Kusina, 82-72.

### First Game

**Save More 65** — Mejarito 14, Tekiupua 10, Torres 9, Genese 7, Vicente 6, Daniel 6, Bernardo 6, Jandoc 4, David 3.

**Ali'i Blue Haus 58** — Jone. Broncano 17, Talania 13, Esdrelon 11, Lilles 5, Mateo 4, De Dios 4, De Vero 2, Berline 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 13-4; 34-24; 43-42; 65-58.

### Second Game

**Team Marianas 72** — C. Santos 16, Aranda 10, G. Sablan 9, Aldan 9, Villarin 7, Dela Cruz 6, Richardson 5, K. Santos 5, J. Sablan 2, Garcia 2, Hocog 1.

**CK Saints 69** — Garase 21, Lyshawn Reyes 10, Luizi Reyes, Yucummang 6, Manibusan 5, Aldan 4, Bahilo 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-10; 27-34; 50-54; 69-72.

## MP

From Page 20

it as Masga scored their third goal and her second of the game in the 43rd minute.

With time running out and still no goals for Tan Holdings, Masga completed the hat-trick in the 59th minute and closed out the game, 4-0.

In Paire's game earlier in the afternoon, Matansa also went blank as both teams struggled to net a goal.

The 14th minute saw action when Paire's Megumi West found the back of the

net for the first goal.

It went silent after that as both teams duked it out on the pitch but went scoreless until the second half.

Sharlette Casil made it a 2-0 game in the 37th minute when she slipped the ball through Matansa's goal and it was enough to get the W as Matansa could not charge past a mighty Paire defense.

The other game between Shirley's and Kanoa ended in a 3-3 draw.

Shirley's Mikayla Lopez scored two goals in the first and 11th minute, while her teammate Jeraldine Castillo

scored their third and last goal in the 51st minute.

For Kanoa, Ye Lynn Ha scored their two goals before the first half ended. Their third goal was made in the 55th minute just in the nick of time to tie up the game. Time ran out and both teams had no more goals in them as the game ended in a 3-3 draw.

In the standings, Shirley's lead with a 6-3-1 record; MP United is a close second with a 6-2-1 record; Southern United FC is at 6-1-2; Kanoa has a 4-1-5 slate; Paire is at 4-0-5; Tan Holdings is 1-2-6; and Matansa have yet to win with 0-3-7.

## LADY

From Page 20

Deleon Guerrero, but at this point, the Lady Blue Jays had a three-run lead, 6-3.

The Lady Blue Jays added two more runs for good measure in the last inning but it was more than enough to seal their undefeated record as the Lady Legals failed to make contact in their last at-bat.

In the first game of the afternoon, BDE slipped past Lady Sufa, 14-13.

Lady Sufa drew first blood and had a four-run first inning off multiple base hits, a double

by Sheena Maratita, and from BDE fielding errors.

Lady Sufa added two more in the third and were in the lead after BDE scored only three runs in the second, but BDE's bats erupted in the third inning and brought in seven runs for a change of the tide, 10-6. BDE added one more run in the fourth inning, while Lady Sufa put up goose eggs.

Then, Lady Sufa bounced back and scored six runs in the fifth inning, thanks to an RBI double by Ashley Angui, and back-to-back RBI singles by Kayla Reyes, Tori Pangelinan, and Jaylina Borja.

The game was a nail-biter as Lady Sufa now led, 12-11. In their last at-bat, Lady Sufa only brought in one run and with one more chance for BDE at the bottom of the last inning, scored the three winning runs to kick Lady Sufa out of playoff contention.

For now, next Sunday's playoff game scheduled games are as follows: 10am, No. 1 seed Lady Blue Jays versus No. 4 seed BDE; and 1pm, No. 2 seed Hot Shots versus No. 3 seed Lady Legals.

Results of the men's games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.





Heat roll past  
Celtics 128-102,  
take 3-0 lead  
in ECF.  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

SCLC caging  
playoffs suspended  
due to Mawar.

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20 TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## MP United, Paire bag wins in women's soccer

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

**M**P United Football Club and Paire Football Club bagged wins after Week 11 of the Flores-Pée Luwal Division of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.



MP United made light work of Tan Holdings FC as they won, 4-0, while Paire did the same with Matansa FC, 2-0.

The first minutes of MP United and Tan Holdings' game was a quiet one as both teams rummaged through the pitch without anything to show for their efforts. Then,

in the 22nd minute, MP United's Erlinda Shimizu broke through the silence and scored their first goal.

Tan Holdings could not keep pace with MP United at this point as just five minutes later, Michelle Ann Masga made it a 2-0 game before the second half.

The second half came and Tan Holdings tried to put even one up on the board to no avail. MP United beat them to

See MP on **Page 19**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
MP United's Michelle Ann Masga completed a hat-trick during their game last Sunday against Tan Holdings in Week 11 of the Flores-Pée Luwal Division of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.

## Save More, Team Marianas triumph in playoffs

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

Save More and Team Marianas triumphed in the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League



playoffs of the loser's bracket last Sunday afternoon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Save More defeated Ali'i

Blue Haus, 65-58, in the first game, while Team Marianas beat CK Saints in a close 72-69 contest.

Ali'i Blue Haus put up a fight against Save More when it closed out the third period

just down by 1 point, 42-43.

Blue Haus rose up from the ashes after they scored just 4 points in the first period and were in a 10-point deficit coming out of the second period. They made more accurate

plays and passed the ball better to close in on Save More.

When the ball got into the hands of Jonel Broncano, he took it upon himself to lead the team and made sure his shots sunk. He was Blue Haus'

leading scorer with 17 markers. Brandon Talania helped out with 13 of his own, along with Elmer Esdrelon's 11—with three big 3-pointers.

However, Save More put the pedal to the metal just when Blue Haus crept closer and they pulled away into the

See SAVE on **Page 19**



LEIGH GASES  
Save More tries to defend against a charge at the basket by Ali'i-Blue Haus leading scorer Jonel Broncano during their game in the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League playoffs of the loser's bracket last Sunday afternoon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



Jays clinched the women's division pennant of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

They faced off against Lady Legals and beat them, 8-3, for an undefeated eight wins heading into the playoffs next Sunday.

Lady Blue Jays' Rachel Salalila started their offense with a lead-off homerun in the second inning after a quiet first inning.

Christy Aldan reached base on a fielding error and

The Lady Blue Jays

## Lady Blue Jays clinch women's division pennant

was brought home by Rayna Deleon Guerrero's base hit, who then came home with Keolani Rios' triple also off errors.

After a scoreless third inning for both teams, it was a 3-1 game after Lady Legals brought in a run in the first inning.

The Lady Blue Jays found their way home again in the fourth inning with one run, then added two more in the fifth inning after Destiny Pangelinan hit an RBI single followed by an RBI double off the bat of Kiana Camacho.

The Lady Legals retaliated and put two on the board after a two-RBI homer by Almina

See LADY on **Page 19**



LEIGH GASES  
In this file photo, Kiana "Kianu" Aldan looks up to grab a flyball during one of their games in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League at the DanDan Softball Field.